



No 3.807

Grunt, grapple,  
grappling  
wrestling  
back REVIEW FRONT

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER 1998

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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

## Prescott: 'We must revive traditional Labour values'

THE DEPUTY Prime Minister, John Prescott, and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, have forged a new alliance to reassert "traditional" Labour values in the wake of the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

While Tony Blair holidays in the Seychelles, they have joined forces to promote "interventionism" in government and fill the vacuum left by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

In an interview with *The Independent*, Mr Prescott revealed publicly for the first time that he and Mr Brown

BY PAUL WAUGH  
AND COLIN BROWN

were working closely to shift the focus of the Government. Mr Prescott said the controversy and media speculation surrounding the Mandelson affair had led them to realise Labour should concentrate more on "substance" than rhetoric.

In the interview, understood to have been sanctioned by the Chancellor, Mr Prescott challenges Mr Mandelson's New Labour commitment to improve productivity through the free

market: "We have decided that public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the traditional Keynesian way."

The Deputy Prime Minister heaps praise on Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general, for his help in developing radical public-private sector partnerships and schemes to raise money for public transport from road pricing.

Coming 24 hours after the cabinet "enforcer", Jack Cunningham, told ministers to stop the feuding that was damaging the Government, Mr Prescott's

words represent a reassertion of his authority as Deputy Prime Minister. It is known that he and Mr Brown are among several Cabinet ministers, including Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, alarmed by Mr Blair's forging of closer links with the Liberal Democrats and his desire to realign the centre-left through electoral reform.

News of the new Cabinet axis was greeted with glee by the Tories, who said it proved Mr Blair had lost control of his

ministers. John Redwood, shadow trade and industry secretary, said the Prescott-Brown partnership's stress on interventionism proved that the Government had not lost its old Labour instincts.

"The civil war is evidently hotting up. They are now introducing some ideology into what so far has just been intense personal loathing between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. Clearly, we are seeing old Labour trying to exploit the New Labour weakness following the resignation of

Peter Mandelson. It's quite extraordinary."

A senior party source said the alliance was an attempt by Mr Prescott to help Mr Brown at a time when he was under intense pressure to fire his spin doctor, Charlie Whelan, following the Mandelson resignation.

"This is certainly significant. Gordon and John are using the opportunity of Peter's departure to say that not everything he did was on target and we need to shift things. A lot of the party would agree," the source said.

But a senior Liberal Democrat said the alliance was a distraction from the Government's reforming agenda. "Tony should come back from holiday with his sun-tan and bang all their heads together."

Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock and a member of the Parliamentary Labour Party's executive, was delighted by news of the alliance. "Lots of backbenchers will be extremely pleased. We were sure that the traditional Labour values would break out once more after a period of suppression."

He hoped the move would herald a wider fightback against some of the more aggressive New Labour ideas proposed by Millbank apprentices.

One such idea was abolition of activist-dominated general committee meetings of local constituency parties. "I hope this means we can now drop such ideas and bring back the Labour stalwarts that we were losing in droves."

Prescott interview, page 4  
Ken Livingstone, Review, page 4

## Four die in failed Yemen rescue bid

BY STEVE BOGGAN

The hostages – six British women, six British men, two American women and two Australian men – were taken on Monday when their five-car convoy was ambushed by 18 kidnappers armed with Kalashnikov rifles and bazookas near Mawidah, 175 miles south of the capital Sanaa.

As negotiations for their release were under way yesterday

put the hostages' lives at risk.

But more than 200 soldiers were already in place around the hostages' hideout in an area known as al-Wade'a, 250 miles south of the capital. According to the Yemenis, the kidnappers were attacked when they began shooting the hostages.

An unnamed Yemeni official told Reuters news agency: "The operation started after abductors started killing hostages ... They killed two, and then our forces stormed them to prevent an escalation of the situation and the killing of more hostages." Two of the kidnappers were killed and four taken prisoner.

Last night, the survivors were recovering from their ordeal in the Movenpick Hotel in Aden. David Pearce, deputy head of mission at the British Embassy, said: "They are obviously in a state of severe shock, and I mean severe shock."

The Foreign Office was in a state of confusion last night, unable to confirm the numbers killed or to elaborate on the operation. Officials said Mr Henderson was forced to seek a second meeting with the Interior Minister when news of the killings emerged, but they were unable to say what he was told.

Explore Worldwide, the company with whom the hostages were travelling, said it had followed Foreign Office guidelines "to the letter". It said it would suspend all trips to Yemen for the time being.

More than 100 Westerners have been kidnapped in Yemen since 1992 but almost all have been released unharmed.

As soon as the survivors are fit, it is thought they will be asked who began shooting first. Kidnapping is commonplace in Yemen, but this is the first time any hostages have been killed and the first time the military has been involved.

There was speculation last night in the intelligence community that extreme force was used because Saleh Haidara al-Atwi, an imprisoned cleric whose release was being demanded by the kidnappers, had links to Osama bin Laden, the man accused of orchestrating the bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August this year.

Yemeni sources said the kidnappers, from the Al-Fadi tribe, belonged to Islamic Jihad. One analyst said supporters of Bin Laden had met during the past two weeks to identify targets after the US bombing of Iraq.

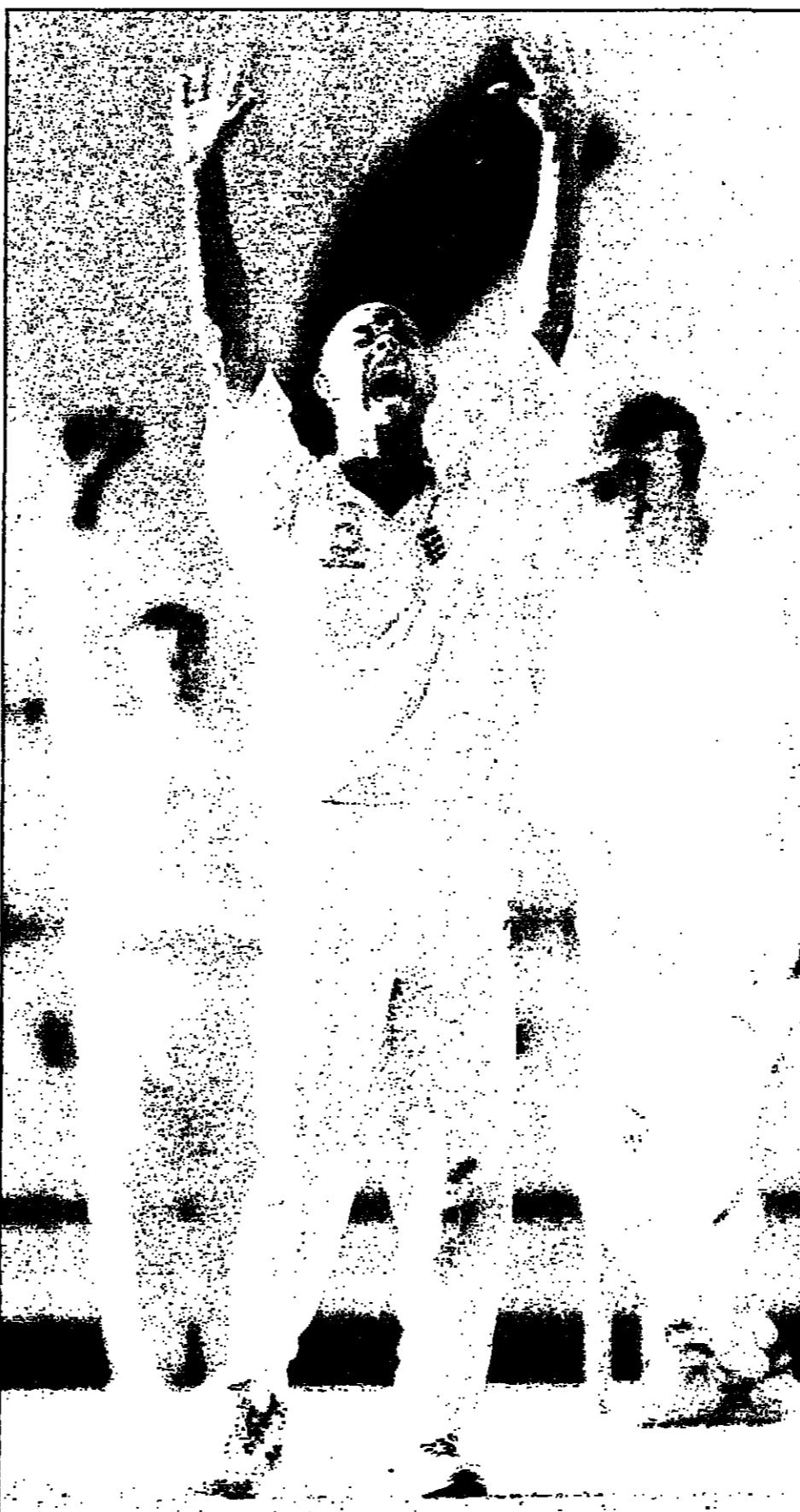
day morning, the Yemenis said they knew of their whereabouts. At 11am GMT, Victor Henderson, the British ambassador, met General Hussein Mohammed Arab, the Yemeni Interior Minister, and urged him to desist from the use of force.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The ambassador made it clear to the Yemeni authorities that no violence should take place and that no rescue attempt should be made that

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Dean Headley claims one of his six wickets in Melbourne

Jack Atley/Allsport

## British seabirds living to be 100 years old



Fulmar: Great survivor

FORGET THE wise old owl. Evidence is growing that some British seabirds may live up to 100 years, one of Britain's leading bird experts said yesterday.

Recoveries of ringed birds indicate great longevity in species such as the fulmar, gannet, manx shearwater and storm petrel, said Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

There is no proof yet because leg-rings strong enough to last that long have only been in use

for 30 years. But, Mr Mead said: "If I had to lay odds, I'd say it would be very unlikely there wasn't a 100-year-old fulmar, or a few of them, in the St Kilda colony, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if it was the same for the gannet."

The BTO's latest five-year report on the recovery of ringed birds shows a number of longevity records for waders and seabirds, including 18

years for the ringed plover; 26 for the bar-tailed godwit and 33 for the common tern – all proved from recoveries made in 1996. In the five years to 1998, storm petrels have been shown to live to at least 32 years. Manx shearwaters to 35, gannets to 36 and fulmars to nearly 41.

All are of the pelagic species – birds which range far out to sea – and all are extremely slow breeders, not laying until they are seven or eight years old, and then only a single egg. "If they did not survive a long time, they would die out," Mr Mead said.

"I'm certain that quite a lot of fulmars are over 50. About 8 per cent, or less, die per year, so it is quite likely, provided there is no senility, that in a colony of 100,000 birds – as in St Kilda – a handful would live to be 100."

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### INSIDE THE REVIEW

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# Prescott bins the spin for real policies

THERE WAS a crisis in the Prescott camp this week. The Deputy Prime Minister and former Cunard steward was entertaining some of his old shipmates at his grace and favour flat in Admiralty House when his cooker broke.

Compared to catering for 13 people with no power, dealing with Peter Mandelson's resignation was plain sailing for the former merchant seaman.

John Prescott made it clear in interviews last week that he would not be rushing to welcome back Mr Mandelson to the Cabinet. He had even referred to the row between Mr Mandelson and Gordon Brown as the "cancer at the heart of it all", in remarks which were wrongly assumed to refer to Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's spin doctor.

Far from attacking the Brown camp, Mr Prescott has been busy this week - while Mr Blair is on holiday - consolidating an alliance with the Chancellor that could fill the vacuum left by Mr Mandelson at the heart of the Blair government.

Mr Prescott told *The Independent* that he wanted to steer the Government away from spin

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

and back to the delivery of policies. "We need to get away from rhetoric and back onto the substance of government," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister is intent on a new style of interventionism, which challenges the free-market tone of the competition White Paper published by Mr Mandelson one of the key architects of New Labour.

But Mr Prescott rejected the notion, and insisted that Mr Mandelson's departure was not significant as it had been claimed in the press. "I don't think that one individual has that kind of influence," he said.

The alliance between Mr Brown and Mr Prescott will surprise many who believed they had a long-running feud as bitter as that between the Brown and Mandelson camps.

With the Chancellor, Mr Prescott is seeking a "cadre" of business expertise to put together more private finance for public sector schemes. Some may be startled by his support for big business, but he heaped praise on Geoffrey Robinson, the ex-paymaster-general

forced to resign over his £273,000 loan to Mr Mandelson for acting as the "midwife" bringing in private finance to public transport schemes.

The Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister could be accused of trying to turn back the clock to old Labour policies while the Blairites are off-guard over the resignation of Mr Mandelson, one of the key architects of New Labour.

"There is still an argument for industrial reorganisation. I still think there is a role for intervention - it's not like the 60s and 70s ... Now we are active participants."

Referring to Mr Blair's determination to carry on with the New Labour project, Mr Prescott made it clear he regards the "project" as Labour's manifesto programme.

"The project is to do what we said we would do when we came into office, which is to have a fairer Britain and a better Britain. I don't think any government has done more than we have done in 18 months."

In opposition, there was almost open warfare between

Mr Prescott and the Brown camp as he tried to challenge

for control of economic strategy. Mr Prescott decided in the run-up to the General Election that there was more to be gained from an alliance.

"There is a myth that Gordon and I don't get on. There was the early days in opposition where of course we were in conflict, and there was a speech in

which I said he was trying to dominate everything. That was seen as an attack. Since then ... many of the things I am trying to do couldn't have been done without Gordon - and not necessarily with the agreement of the Treasury."

Treasury officials "bitterly resisted" the deal in which Mr Prescott will be allowed to earmark money raised from tolls

or congestion charging on motorways for enhanced public transport. In spite of scepticism, Mr Prescott insisted the money raised from motorists would go on public transport, because he has to vet the schemes.

"That was between Gordon and I. These are radical changes in the public finances. Gordon is a radical guy in these areas," Mr Prescott said. "Our

relationship is excellent and has been for quite a while. There is less tension between us because it's quite clear I need to get some of the changes in the financial rules to be able to deliver - and it helps Gordon on the public finances by avoiding more public borrowing."

That deal has turned Mr Prescott's massive department of Environment, Transport and

the Regions into Whitehall's first tax raising ministry apart from the Treasury. "Because of its size and breadth ... it's becoming a very important economic department, which is not realised by people," Mr Prescott said. "We are a massive deliverer, particularly when we have decided that public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the traditional Keynesian way."



John Prescott: "We need to get away from rhetoric and back on to the substance of government"

David Rose

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## MPs watchdog turns sights on ministers

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

PARLIAMENT'S anti-sleaze commissioner has revealed that she could take on new powers to police ministers in the aftermath of the Mandelson affair.

Elizabeth Filkin, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, suggested yesterday that ministers should come under the same scrutiny mechanism as backbench MPs.

Ms Filkin's remarks are the clearest sign yet that the whole system of policing ministerial misconduct is set for reform in the light of Peter Mandelson's undeclared £273,000 loan from the former paymaster-general, Geoffrey Robinson.

At present, the commissioner can only launch inquiries into MPs who fail to detail gifts and directorships in the register of members' interests. The power to investigate breaches by ministers is held by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary.

Ms Filkin's remarks were welcomed by leading members

of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee, who also called for independent scrutiny of ministers.

Tony Blair is under pressure from MPs on all sides to

change the system. Many want the UK to follow the lead of the United States and several European countries where governments are not allowed to carry out investigations into their own members.

Ms Filkin told BBC Radio 4's *World at One* that she believed the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was right to examine the regulation of ministers. "It may be that it would be a better arrangement to have investigations - where they are needed - to cover both MPs and what they do in relation to the House of Commons and indeed, what they do if they happen to be in ministerial positions."

Ms Filkin's remarks were welcomed by leading members

Dale Campbell Savours, MP for Workington and a member of the committee, said that the proposal was "the only way forward". He added: "We just can't have prime ministers put in the position where they are asking questions about the private lives and affairs of fellow ministers. It can only be done by an independent body answerable to Parliament."

Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons Public Administration Committee, agreed that extending the watchdog's remit would end the current "farce".

Ms Filkin's predecessor, Sir Gordon Downey, has described the omission of powers to regulate ministers as a "gap" in his remit. The Neill Committee will examine the issue next year.

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# Woodward lawyer accuses brother

BY DAVID USBORNE AND ESTHER LEACH

MORE THAN a year after a Massachusetts jury convicted the British air pair, Louise Woodward, of murdering Matthew Eappen, the baby in her care, one of her defence lawyers has suggested that the head injury that caused the child's death might have been inflicted by his elder brother.

In a startling interview with *Lawyers Weekly*, Harvey Silvergate conceded that Woodward's defence team made a mistake by not trying to implicate somebody else in the crime.

"In retrospect, we would have tried it differently," he said. He also revealed that while they maintained a calm demeanour in public, Woodward's parents were "hysterical" about their daughter's plight.

Specifically, Mr Silvergate, who led Woodward's defence with his law firm partner, told the American legal journal that they had "some stuff" that would have called into question the conduct of other members of the Eappen family, including the brother, Brendan.

"We didn't cast any aspersions, any blemishes on the Eappens. That was our plan. We had loads of witnesses prepared to do it," Mr Silvergate



Harvey Silvergate:  
Brendan is a 'wild child'

said. "I can tell you that we had some stuff, and I'm not going to tell you what it was..."

He added: "The issue of whether the older brother is well-behaved or not; well, that's irrelevant."

Mr Silvergate made the comments after being named one of the top 10 lawyers in Massachusetts by *Lawyers Weekly*.

They are doubly controversial because they come on the eve of the civil trial in the case, which is scheduled to begin in Boston next week.

It could result in Woodward, on the basis of her manslaughter conviction, being ordered to pay tens of millions of dollars in damages to the Eappens.

Last night, Steve Collins, a Woodward family friend, said

neither Louise or her parents would comment. But he added: "It was a lawyer's comment in a lawyers' magazine meant purely for the professionals. It was an argument at the back of our minds at the time of the criminal case, but I believe that Louise's lawyers played it right."

"They were sensitive to how a jury might react to big lawyers blaming a young baby for the death of his brother."

While there were rumours during the trial that Woodward's lawyers were ready to shift the blame on Brendan, who was two at the time, they demurred for fear of antagonising the jury. They relied on their central contention that Matthew died not from a violent shaking but from a minor, three-week-old injury that left a blood clot which eventually exploded catastrophically inside his skull.

Mr Silvergate refused to clarify yesterday what evidence he might have presented to implicate Brendan. He simply told *Lawyers Weekly*: "We possibly made a mistake not bringing out that the parents were imperfect. The older brother in fact was quite a wild kid."

Wendy Murphy, a former public prosecutor in Massachusetts also lashed out at Mr Silvergate. "He should be named top-10 scumbag of the year. It's one thing to point the finger at an innocent person as a matter of strategy during a trial, but to do something so cruel after the fact is absolutely outrageous."

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Sunil Eappen, carrying baby Matthew on his back, and his wife Deborah, holding Matthew's brother Brendan. One of Louise Woodward's defence team has suggested that Brendan may have caused Matthew's death

## Heads seek term-time holiday ban

HEAD TEACHERS today called for a change in the law to stop parents taking their children on holiday during term time, which is happening more often.

The National Association of Head Teachers said rising divorce rates meant children often took two holidays, one with each parent. It also blamed work pressures, which meant parents took holidays at employers' convenience, and an increase in the number of families taking two holidays a year.

In addition, some ethnic minority families visited Pakistan, India or the Caribbean in November and December or between January and March.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "The law permits pupils 10 days' authorised absence per school year, but parents are increasingly taking advantage by treating this as a right."

"It is wrong that parents cannot or will not, find time for holidays within the existing 14-week 'envelope'. The travel industry's promotion of cheap family holidays in term time is a major contributory factor."

"The law is out of date and totally at odds with the Government's drive to raise standards." He added that parents

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

were increasingly ignoring schools' requests not to take their children on holiday during term, meaning children might miss national curriculum tests and fall behind with vital work. One secondary school had recorded more than 1,000 days lost to holidays last year.

The Department for Education and Employment is holding talks with the travel industry about the problem.

A spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents said: "Tour operators are not actively promoting cheap family holidays in term time. They are simply in the brochures at different prices."

"It is a question of supply and demand; the six weeks of the summer holiday tend to be when most people want to go."

Margaret Morrissey, press officer for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said the Government attitude was contradictory. It allowed parents to take children out of school for two weeks a year, but then penalised schools by including these absences in the league tables.

## Christmas sales soar on Internet

INTERNET COMMERCE, still in its infancy in Britain, is exploding in America. Sales of goods over the Internet this Christmas were three to four times up on last year, according to preliminary figures.

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Shop.org, the electronic retailers' industry group, estimated that revenue for the holiday season grew 230 per cent, with the average amount spent rising to \$5. The Interpublic Group of Companies, an advertising group, estimated that online Christmas sales would reach \$5bn, four times higher than in 1997.

While this is still a tiny per-

centage of all shopping, it marks something of a milestone, according to firms that monitor online shopping.

"This holiday season marks the year that online retailing moved from an interesting consumer experiment to an accepted retail alternative," said BCG's vice-president, David Pecaut. "The 24-hour-a-day access to Internet stores, no crowds and the convenience of shipping gifts directly to family and friends have struck a chord with a rapidly growing segment of wired consumers."

### IN BRIEF

#### Bomb attack on Catholic family

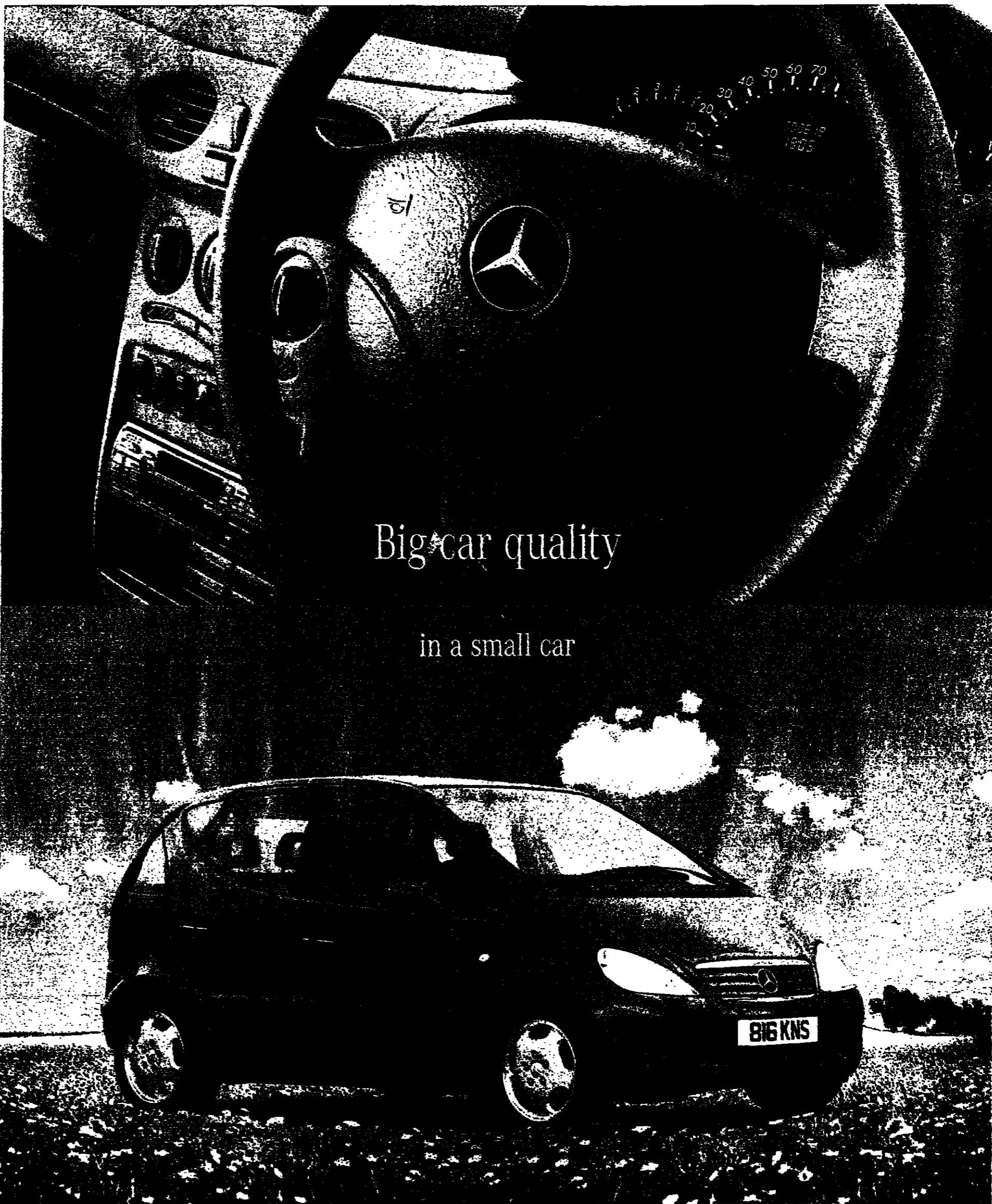
LOYALISTS were blamed yesterday for a bomb attack on a Catholic family in Armagh on Monday night. A blast bomb shattered the window of Kay O'Connor's home, showering her with glass. She and her three children, who were in bed, were unharmed.

#### 50,000 free nursery places

AN EXTRA 50,000 free nursery places for three-year-olds will be available next year, the Government announced yesterday. It is committed to double the proportion of three-year-olds with nursery places by 2002.

#### Huge leap in rail fares

SOME TRAIN fares are set to rise by up to 24 per cent. Railways said yesterday The pressure group found that half of unregulated fares go up on 4 January, including the London to Birmingham first-class return, which rises 23.5 per cent.



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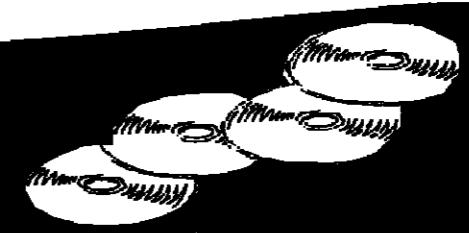
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# Police criticised over use of batons

POLICE CHIEFS were urged yesterday to abandon the use of "aggressive" American-style tactics when training their officers to use batons.

A report by the independent Police Complaints Authority also expresses concern that British officers are being taught to strike people on their kneecaps and shins, despite those spots being particularly vulnerable to fractures.

The organisation warns that the use of these tactics may be responsible for a rise in the number of complaints about batons. A study - *Striking the Balance* - into the use of new types of police baton follows a 10 per cent increase in the number of complaints - up to 454 - in the past year. In its report, published today, the PCA calls for greater use of refresher training for officers, which appeared to be very effective in reducing complaints.

Batons began to replace 11-inch wooden truncheons - first issued to police in the last century - about five years ago.

The PCA found that most complaints were associated with side-handled batons - the longest and heaviest of the types in use, and deployed in 23 forces across England and Wales. These attracted an average of 3.3 complaints per 1,000 officers using them.

It also raised particular concern about the Asp baton - an expandable wand with a metal tip, used by 12 forces, which was introduced from the US with hardly any changes to the training manual.

One consequence of this was that officers were trained to stand ready to strike with the baton resting on the shoulder, which put the suspect at risk of being hit, unintentionally, on the head or another dangerous

area. The Asp attracted 2.38 complaints per 1,000 officers. Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the PCA, said: "Police forces should amend their American batons training manuals to take account of the less aggressive style of policing in this country and provide refresher training for all officers."

The equipment receiving fewest complaints was used by only a handful of forces: the Casco type, used by five forces, which attracted 1.9 complaints per thousand officers; and the fixed-length Arnold, used by four forces, including the Metropolitan Police, with 1.78 complaints.

The report also urged police to rethink the areas of the body which were considered target areas. It expressed particular concern that the shin, which could be fractured, was a primary target area and the knee-joint, which could be dislocated or fractured by a baton blow, was a secondary target area.

The new batons have been introduced along with rigid handcuffs, CS gas and body armour to give officers greater protection. There were 15,488 assaults on officers in 1996-97.

The cases dealt with by the PCA include a police sergeant, found guilty in October of assaulting a man with an Asp baton. The officer, who had been called to a domestic incident, struck the man on the shoulder. The sergeant was convicted of assault and forced to resign. He plans to appeal.

In March, an 18-year-old man claimed he was struck on the head with an extendable side-handled baton as he walked away from a football ground. The officer faces a disciplinary hearing next month.

Many of Britain's leading chefs have agreed to ban genetically modified food from their kitchens and press the Government for a five-year moratorium on such foods being sold in shops.

Nico Ladenis and Raymond Blanc are among the 19 chefs who have agreed to back a Friends of the Earth campaign to halt the sale of genetically engineered food until more is known about its impact on health and the environment.

Pete Riley, a campaigner at FoE, said the people who cared most about food were nearly unanimous in their disapproval of scientific tinkering.

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

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# COUNTDOWN TO THE EURO

# Blair treads softly on new currency

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

"WE HAVE to fight back against all this nonsense," Tony Blair told one of his closest advisers as he surveyed another day of damaging headlines about how an EU-wide tax policy was going to be imposed on Britain.

According to aides, the Prime Minister recognised that his twin-track strategy of appeasing Britain's Eurosceptic newspapers while the Government adopted a pro-European policy was no longer tenable.

"He finally realised that we were not going to get anywhere in Europe unless we took on the Eurosceptic press," said a government source. "For him it was a very serious moment."

A referendum on whether Britain should join the single currency is still some years away, but the starting gun for the campaign will be fired on 1 January when the euro is launched by 11 other European Union countries.

The "yes" and "no" camps already exist in embryonic form and they agree that 1999 could



## THE PROS

**Leaders:** The all-party European Movement (Giles Radice, Labour MP); Lord Hollick, newspaper proprietor (left); Kenneth Clarke, former Tory chancellor; Peter Mandelson, former cabinet minister; Paddy Ashdown

**Position:** Want early declaration by the Government that it intends joining single currency

**Strengths:** Strong all-party base; business back-up

**Weaknesses:** Tony Blair reluctant to come off fence

**Prospects:** Will run disciplined campaign; successful euro launch would strengthen position



## THE ANTIS

**Leaders:** Baroness Thatcher; William Hague; European Foundation (Bill Cash, Tory MP); European Research Group (Sir Michael Spicer, Tory MP); Democracy Movement (Paul Sykes, businessman, left); Austin Mitchell (Labour MP); Business for Sterling (Lord Stirling)

**Position:** Divided between "never" and "not for two Parliaments" (Hague)

**Strengths:** Will play on people's EU doubts; backers' money

**Weaknesses:** Thirty-plus groups

**Prospects:** May be battling against tide of history



## THE 'NOT YET'S'

**Leaders:** Lord Owen (left, former Labour foreign secretary and SDP leader); Lord Prior (former Tory cabinet "yes"); Martin Taylor (former chief executive, Barclays Bank)

**Position:** Britain should not join euro now, but still play a positive role in the EU

**Strengths:** Cannot be tarnished as anti-European; respected group of elder statesmen

**Weaknesses:** Difficult message to project; must avoid looking like band of yesterday's men

**Prospects:** May be outflanked by yes and "no" campaigns

painting it as a federalist party which swallows all the medicine prescribed by Brussels.

The lesson of the 1975 referendum, when the British people voted by a margin of 2-1 to stay in the then Common Market, bodes well for the "yes" campaign. The "no" camp will try to prevent the debate being turned into one about Britain's engagement in Europe.

Although the "no" campaign will probably have more money at its disposal, it may suffer from internal differences. There are more than 30 organisations in the Eurosceptic camp. A more formal structure may be set up later this year, but one participant admitted: "It will be very difficult to get everyone to work together."

In contrast, the putative "yes" campaign is applying the "command and control" strategy which served Labour so well at the last general election.

What the public makes of the great euro debate is another matter. At present, they are "switched off". But they will certainly notice the frantic activity of the next six months.

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## e-business tools

## Britons expect to join euro

BY JOHN CURTICE

DESPISE CONTINUED widespread opposition to the euro, a clear majority believes that Britain will join eventually.

At the beginning of this month, a poll found 53 per cent of Britons would vote against joining if a referendum were held now. Only 29 per cent would vote in favour while the rest said they did not know.

But yesterday, a Gallup poll showed that four-fifths of the electorate believed it was inevitable that Britain would join the euro "sooner or later".

Equally, 58 per cent recently told ICM that Britain could not afford to stay out of the euro if it proved to be a success.

Moreover, there are clear signs of flux. Opposition rose after Britain was forced out of the euro's predecessor, the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), in 1992. And it ratcheted up again in the wake of the banning of British beef from European markets in 1996.

The same effect has been seen in recent weeks. When the spectre of European tax harmonisation was raised in November, opinion once again swung against the euro.

What the pro-single currency campaign needs is good news from Europe. Lower mortgage rates might, for example, prove an attraction; yet so far only one in ten of us recognises it as such.

And, of course, the pro-single currency campaign needs

rather friendlier noises about Europe than the previous Conservative one. But it will need a far more clear and sustained lead from ministers if public opinion is to be changed.

The Government, of course, will worry about the media. Yet whether individual newspapers have much influence on their readers is doubtful.

After all, readers of the largely pro-European Mirror are less keen on a single currency than those of the Eurosceptic Daily Telegraph. What appears to matter is not how newspapers slant the news, but whether the news they have to report is good or bad for the single currency in the first place.

The challenge for those who wish to join the euro is to make sure the news is good.

John Curtice is deputy director of the ESRC Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends

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Khieu Samphan (left) expressing his regret over the death of 2 million Cambodians, with fellow Khmer Rouge leader Nuon Chea

## Khmer Rouge leaders apologise

TWO LEADERS of the Cambodian Khmer Rouge said yesterday they were "very sorry" about the genocide of the 1970s although they refused to accept responsibility for the slaughter of about two million of their countrymen.

Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea were flown by helicopter from a former rebel stronghold

BY KER MUNTHIT  
in Phnom Penh

to the capital Phnom Penh to surrender to the Prime Minister, Hun Sen, after he pledged they would not face trial for crimes against humanity.

They were asked by journalists, many of them Cambodians who lost family members, if

they felt remorse for causing the deaths of up to 2 million people.

"Yes, sorry, very sorry," Khieu Samphan said. "We would like to apologise and ask our compatriots to forget the past so our nation can concentrate on the future," he said. "Let bygones be bygones."

After the Khmer Rouge revolutionaries emerged victorious

in a civil war in 1975 they forced the population into slave labour camps. One Cambodian in five perished from overwork, starvation, disease and executions.

The Khmer Rouge and their chief, Pol Pot, were overthrown in 1979 by the Vietnamese, but spent the next two decades fighting on in the countryside.

Survivors of the "killing

fields" yesterday dismissed the apology. Bun Say, 38, a civil servant, said: "Millions of lives, including 20 of my relatives, were lost under their regime. Now I want to kill their wives and children and then say sorry."

Keo Rotana, 45, said: "More than 10 of my family were killed in their regime and Khieu Samphan says sorry." (AP)

## Sierra Leone town falls to rebel army

REBEL FORCES in Sierra Leone fighting to oust President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah have taken control of the central town of Makeni, observers said yesterday. The strategic town, 75 miles north-east of the capital, Freetown, was the scene of recent heavy fighting.

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels forced a West African peace-keeping force to retreat from Makeni, triggering the flight of the town's entire population of several thousand.

The RUF has launched a series of offensives in recent weeks to recapture ground lost to the Nigerian-led peacekeepers earlier in the year.

Diplomats from West Africa, the United States and Britain, meeting on Monday in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan, called for more aid to help defend Sierra Leone's embattled government.

Nigeria has assumed the

BY JAMES ROBERTS

majority of responsibilities for the peace-keeping force, known as Ecomog. The US and Britain have provided logistical support for the regional task force.

Rebel units claim to have come within 12 miles of the capital and have threatened to start shelling the city. Sierra Leone claims that mercenaries from Liberia, Burkina Faso and Ukraine are fighting alongside the rebels, though that has not been independently confirmed.

Nigeria flew two more battalions to bolster its forces in Freetown on Sunday night. The peace-keepers are also expecting reinforcements from

### New move to halt fighting in Kosovo

ABOUT A hundred observers were on their way to Kosovo yesterday to shore up efforts to control fighting in the Serbian province between the authorities and rebel Albanians.

Rebel units claim to have come within 12 miles of the capital and have threatened to start shelling the city. Sierra Leone claims that mercenaries from Liberia, Burkina Faso and Ukraine are fighting alongside the rebels, though that has not been independently confirmed.

Nigeria flew two more battalions to bolster its forces in Freetown on Sunday night. The peace-keepers are also expecting reinforcements from

the informal truce.

A spokesman for the Kosovo Liberation Army said the rebels would respect the ceasefire, "but we will defend ourselves with all means if necessary". (AP)



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## Saddam puts pressure on no-fly zones

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

SADDAM HUSSEIN yesterday stepped up his goading of the United States and Britain as part of an apparent strategy to provoke further military action against him and thus build up sympathy for Iraq's plight in the outside world.

A day after US jets attacked

an Iraqi air defence installation

which had earlier fired missiles

against them in the northern

"no-fly" zone, Baghdad's Vice

President said Iraq would con-

tinue to fire at aircraft entering

the zones in the country's north

and south. He claimed Iraq's

planes were operating once

more in the two areas, in de-

fiance of the Allied ban. "We are

doing this right now. Iraqi

planes are, in effect, flying in a

normal fashion in Iraqi air

space," Taha Yassin Ramadan

said last night, underlining how

Iraq has never recognised the

two zones. This constituted the

first breach of the "no-fly"

regimes since 1996.

The first zone was imposed

in 1991 to protect the Kurdish

population in the north, the

second a year later to safeguard

Shia Muslims in the south.

This latest defiance, less

than two weeks after the end of

the American and British air

strikes and recommended that Arab countries ignore international sanctions, was postponed until 24 January. Among the Arab countries, only Libya has come out unequivocally in support of Iraq.

Neither is the inventive helping Iraq's attempts to exploit the split among UN Security Council members on how to handle President Saddam. France, which broadly supports a lifting of sanctions, has drawn Iraq's fire by suggesting that the spending of oil income should be permanently monitored by the UN to prevent Baghdad using the money to buy arms.

Lately there have even been hints from Iraqi officials of an end to the oil-for-food programme, which allows Iraq to sell up to \$5.25bn of oil every six months for essential food and medical supplies. Iraq claims it cannot sell that amount of oil because of low oil prices and a ban on purchases of equipment to maintain the fields.

Britain and the US say President Saddam is deliberately under-using the programme but, none the less, they have made a proposal to broaden the scheme.

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E-mail: [IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk](mailto:IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk)

# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### NatPower pulls out of Polish deal

NATIONAL POWER yesterday said that a lack of financial guarantees had prevented it from signing a deal to take a 20 per cent stake in Polish state power complex PAK.

"There were insufficient safeguards to make the investment," a National Power spokesman said. National Power had offered \$1.25m for the 20 per cent stake in a deal that was initially expected to be signed before Christmas.

The spokesman said the deal could be revived only if Poland could provide reassurances on the structure of markets and returns for National Power. The British company is believed to want pricing guarantees and purchase agreements extending over the next five years.

Poland's treasury ministry said last week that the deal founded after National Power presented additional conditions which were not part of the original agreement.

### Bass chief receives 97% pay rise

  
SIR IAN PROSSER, chairman and chief executive of brewing group Bass, received a 97 per cent pay rise last year, which saw his annual pay packet soar to £1.6m. In addition to a basic £600,000 salary, Sir Ian (pictured) also received performance-related bonuses of £298,000, and options worth £171,000, the first tranche of shares in the long-term incentive

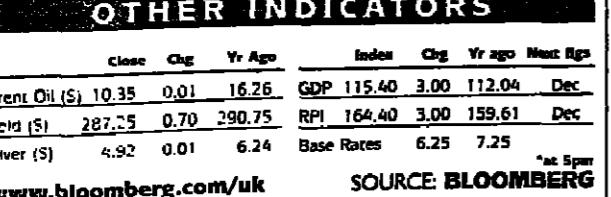
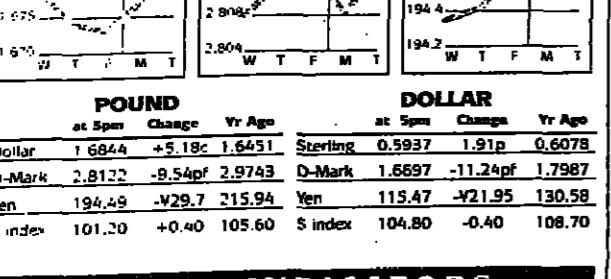
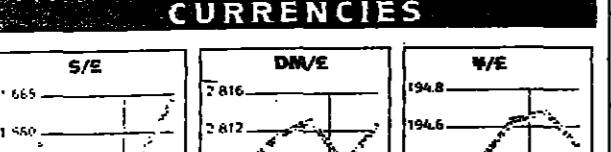
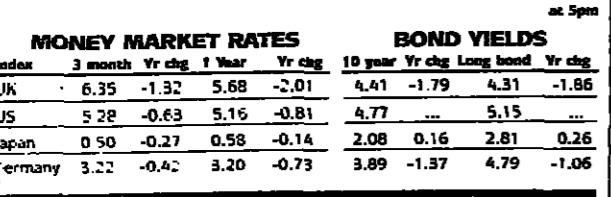
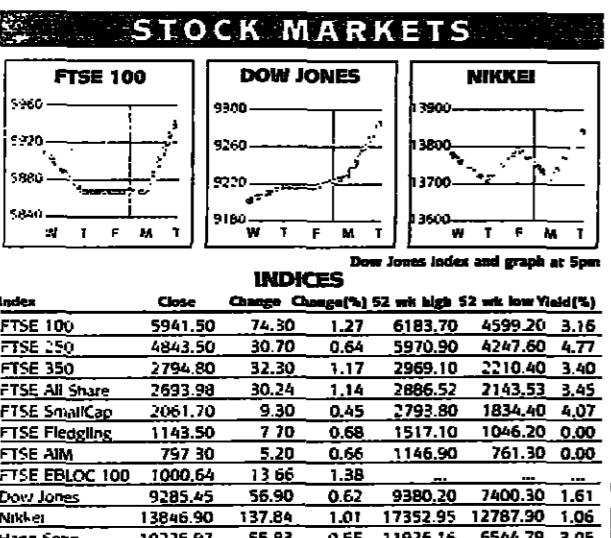
plan. Sir Ian's pay rise compares with a 75 per cent rise in profits in the group's business.

### GEC narrows search for partner

GENERAL ELECTRIC Company yesterday confirmed it had narrowed its list of potential defence merger partners to four rival groups in Europe and the US. A spokeswoman confirmed reports that the shortlist included British Aerospace as well as US groups Lockheed Martin and Northrop and France's Thomson-CSF. "We have been holding discussions. We are now making a decision."

### Centrica raises £92m cash

CENTRICA, the gas distributor, yesterday announced that it had raised £92m in cash through the lease and buyback of two gas platform topsides in the Irish Sea to Bankers Trust. The 20-year agreement, which will reduce 1999 financing costs by 2.7 per cent, will not affect Centrica's licence interests, gas production or reserves, the company said. At the close of trading, Centrica shares had gained 4 per cent to 122p.



Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Recession fears deepen as business failures increase

YESTERDAY BROUGHT fresh gloom about the state of the economy, with news of the first rise in business failures for six years. But one employer's organisation warned business

should start to take effect, he said.

Mathew Farrow, head of the

Confederation of British Indus-

try's small business unit, said

the figures confirmed other

signs of an economic slowdown.

CBI surveys have become

markedly more pessimistic in

recent months, and the organi-

sation has called for further

interest-rate reductions.

But Tim Melville-Ross,

director-general of the rival

institute of Directors, yesterday

warned against taking too

gloomy a view. Business leaders

were in danger of talking them-

selves into a recession in 1999.

Unfortunately, it is particu-

larly good as a nation at per-

suading ourselves that the

economic situation is worse

than it is. But I firmly believe

that business is capable of pre-

venting a recession simply by

avoiding talking about it as if

it were inevitable," he said.

The CBI agreed that the level

of business failures remained

much lower than during the

last recession. The figure

reached a peak of 62,767 in 1992.

"This supports the view that

although things may get worse,

the downturn will not be as

long or as deep as last time

around," Mr Farrow said. The

CBI has itself warned of the risk

that recession could become a

self-fulfilling prophecy.

Separate figures yesterday

suggested that consumer

spending and the housing mar-

ket have continued to hold up

well, despite signs that confi-

dence about the economy's

prospects is slipping.

The Nationwide reported a

0.8 per cent rise in house prices

in December, leaving the annu-

al rate almost unchanged at 7

per cent. The building society

said sales were 12 per cent

down since the start of the year

and confidence was weak.

But it predicted that the

housing market was in a good

position to weather an eco-

nomic downturn. Some areas -

such as Cambridge, Guildford

and Islington in London - were

still seeing annual price rises in

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nomic downturn. Some areas -



12 week	High/Low Stock	Price	Chg	Td	PE	Code	12 week	High/Low Stock	Price	Chg	Td	PE	Code
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b> 0.42%													
804 32 Allied Breweries	555.5 0.45 262.1000	21	125 HNL	92.0 0.45 57	175	1000	7.5	33.051	274 142	49 Cdr Corp	165.5 0.45 94	7.6 1195	
412 232 Balfour (L)	338.0 0.35 55 174 135	151 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	41	21	9 Greenhills Res	93.0 0.0	-	41	21	9 Greenhills Res	93.0 0.0	-
725 479 Balfour (L)	125.0 0.35 45 455	152 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	53	1000	5.0 0.0	355	153 22	Reactive Manq	47.5 0.0	-		
325 885 Balfour (L)	700.0 0.35 25 21 250	154 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	155 22	Reactive Manq	47.5 0.0	17	2050	
244 115 Matthew Clark	242.0 0.35 23 44 125	155 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	156 22	Reactive Manq	47.5 0.0	17	2050	
<b>BANKS</b> 1.10%													
187 672 Alder Mat	1260.0 0.42 81 194 232	156 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	157 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
107 565 AB	102.0 0.42 25 25	158 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	159 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
188 782 Allianz Life	877.0 0.42 25 25	160 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	161 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
133 449 AIC of Scrl	1310.0 0.42 21 20 110	162 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	163 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
282 671 Allianz	602.5 0.42 25 25	164 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	165 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
277 672 Allianz (P)	1260.0 0.42 81 194 232	166 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	167 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
645 225 Lloyd's J	573.0 0.42 20 24 243	168 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	169 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
111 357 Allianz Plc	178.0 0.42 25 25	170 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	171 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
124 404 Allianz Plc	1040.0 0.42 25 25	172 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	173 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
70 423 Allianz Plc	1040.0 0.42 25 25	174 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	175 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
113 161 Allianz Plc	975.0 0.42 31 31 147	176 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	177 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
184 204 Allianz Plc	1040.0 0.42 25 25	178 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	179 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
280 226 Allianz Plc	1040.0 0.42 25 25	180 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	181 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
<b>BREWERIES PUB &amp; REST. (CONT)</b>													
174 671 Balfour	811.0 0.42 42 42 124	182 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	184 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
12 152 Balfour	1260.0 0.42 81 194 232	186 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	188 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
255 222 Balfour	145.0 0.42 44 44 102	190 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	192 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
189 127 Balfour	196.0 0.42 51 51 112 113	194 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	196 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
181 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	198 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	200 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
183 51 City Inv	70.0 0.42 81 74 74	202 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	204 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
185 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	208 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	210 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
187 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	214 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	216 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
189 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	220 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	222 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
191 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	226 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	228 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
193 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	232 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	234 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
195 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	238 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	240 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
197 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	244 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	246 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
199 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	250 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	252 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
201 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	256 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	258 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
203 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	262 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	264 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
205 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	268 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	270 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
207 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	274 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	276 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
209 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	280 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	282 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
211 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	286 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	288 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	
213 51 City Inv	116.0 0.42 81 74 74	292 100 Hesters Tast	100.0 0.0 84 64	100	111	3.7 0.0	200	294 100 Hesters					

# Another turbulent year for shares

ONE OF the most troubling aspects when assessing the outlook for the equity market in 1999 is the sense that the lessons of 1998 are still not clear, even at this stage.

While the decisive global policy response in the final months of the year has clearly restored calm to world markets, it is impossible to say whether the underlying tensions have been resolved. If there is one lesson that we should have learnt in 1998 it is modesty, as the limits to our understanding of the global financial system became painfully clear.

Nevertheless, highlighting these uncertainties does not free us from the seasonal task of previewing the year ahead for the equity market.

An appraisal of the broad economic outlook looks like a good place to start. The story here seems straightforward. Inflationary pressures will probably continue to ease worldwide, but there should be no recession, either in the UK or in the global economy.

While at face value this seems a reassuring economic scenario, the underlying reality may be less comforting. Low real growth is one thing, low inflation another, but having both at once is unfamiliar territory for the UK economy.

Nominal GDP growth in the UK looks set to be around 3 per cent in 1999, the slowest growth in 50 years. This, of course, is not just a UK



**PAUL O'CONNOR**

*Modest valuations and strong liquidity flows should provide good support*

theme, but part of a much wider global phenomenon which should see lower growth across Europe in 1999 and in the US as well.

As companies are discovering, this is a world in which sales growth is hard to generate, requiring cutbacks in costs and investment to preserve profitability. The recent trend in analyst earnings forecasts illustrates how these pressures are mounting.

Analysts began 1998 expecting earnings growth of 10 per cent for the year. But, as the graph displays, it has been downhill ever since. The latest estimate shows that analysts

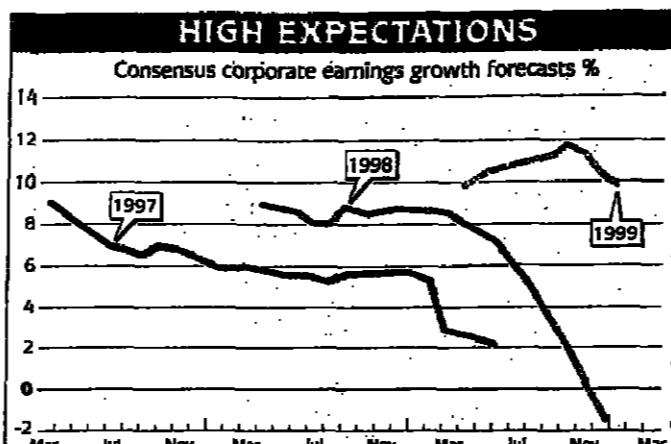
now expect earnings to fall by more than 1 per cent in 1999. The final outcome will probably be closer to -5 per cent.

This process has by no means run its course. Forecasts for earnings growth in 1999 show analysts once again starting the year expecting earnings to expand at a double-digit rate. So much for low nominal growth. The out-turn looks likely to be closer to zero than the current 12 per cent consensus forecast.

If that seems a recipe for a bad year ahead for the equity market, it is worth noting that the trend in the overall equity market has typically been only weakly correlated with forecast revisions. Furthermore, growth is not the only factor driving equity markets, and it is of some comfort that other key influences are sending more positive signals.

Economic policy is the first of these. While a world of low economic growth is one in which profits will expand more slowly than in the past, it is also a world of greater economic stability. With inflation and output volatility having fallen to historical lows and the economy of major financial imbalances, policy can continue to ease in 1999.

Base rates look set to fall from today's 6.25 per cent towards 5 per cent, with most of the cuts taking



place in the first half of the year. Further rate cuts look likely in the US and across Europe.

For equities, the prospect of further interest rate cuts provides encouragement to look through earnings downgrades and to focus on the prospect of growth recovering from late 1999. This is a global theme, to be reinforced in the UK by favourable fiscal measures. Both the cuts in corporation tax and the abolition of Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT) in April will boost corporate profitability.

The second area of comfort for the equity market is valuation. Although equity analysts may be slow to adjust their forecasts in the face

of slowing growth, markets move swiftly. Current bond/equity valuations show that equities have already priced in a considerable degree of bad news. Indeed, the stock market is cheaper relative to bonds than it has been during recent recessions. While the easing of economic policy in 1999 should promote a re-rating of equities against bonds, at the very least it should strengthen the valuation floor.

In a valuation context, the prospect of structurally low inflation should reinforce this more positive cyclical story in 1999. While earnings may grow more slowly in a low inflation era, these earnings are likely to be of higher quality and more

durable than in the past, and therefore warrant a higher rating. There is strong empirical evidence of this inverse relationship between equity valuations and inflation. If inflation is historically low, then P/E multiples can stay historically high.

Our own inflation valuation models would suggest that fair value on the UK market is pretty close to the current level.

Lower interest rates should reinforce this trend, a theme that may also influence institutional asset allocation in 1999.

While every rate cut improves equity market fundamentals, it also diminishes the appeal of cash as a rival asset. It is notable that the year begins with pension funds holding almost 7 per cent of their assets in cash, a weighting last seen in the early 1990s when interest rates were well into double digits.

In summary, while the prospect of frequent and sizeable earnings downgrades in the early months of the year will weigh heavily on the equity market in 1999, modest valuations and strong liquidity flows should provide good support.

As the year progresses, the beneficial impact of the easier policy environment should become more apparent, sustaining the market's advance towards our estimate of around £200 on the FTSE 100 by the end of the year.

While global influences should also become more supportive as the year progresses, we believe they remain capable of producing meaningful bouts of turbulence along the way. Expect surprises.

*Paul O'Connor is an equity strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston*

## New Year tips brighten a lacklustre day for Footsie

IT LOOKED at one time as if Footsie would reclaim the 6,000 points level, last visited in July.

But on a day renouned for traditionally thin trading, blue chips were unable to hang on to their best levels and the index closed with a 7.43 gain to 5,941.5.

New Year tips, real and rumoured, provided some interest but as invariably happens at this time of the year offices existed with a skeleton staff. Many big filters were away and those left in charge were more likely to make the type of precautionary move which often amplifies share movements.

The advent of the euro, prompting some big investors to sit on the sidelines, also restricted trading.

The Stock Exchange attempted to pierce the malaise by reporting it had enjoyed another record year with domestic volume up 2.2 per cent.

Supporting shares moved ahead. The mid cap index rose 3.7 to 4,843.5 and the small cap 9.3 to 2,061.7. Not for the first time General Electric Co was

### MARKET REPORT



**DEREK PAIN**

under scrutiny as it, and others, continued to play the euro defence game. The shares were at one time 30p higher at a 580p a share peak. They closed 8.5p up at 549.5p.

GEC is now said to be concentrating its corporate endeavours on four possible merger partners, including British Aerospace which has, on and off, been in the group's sights for years.

In fact six years ago, when BAe limped along at around 30p, GEC took a close interest in the then ailing group but de-

cided not to bid. Others said to be in talks with GEC are Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, the US groups, and Thomson-CSF of France, part owned by the French government which is said to be keen for a take-over.

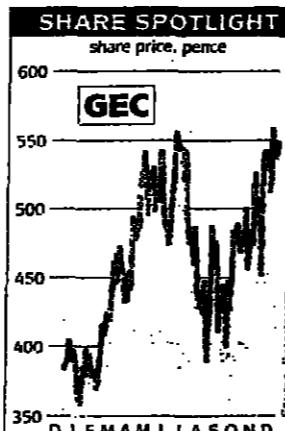
Peter Craine, GEC's director of government relations, said: "It is too early to say who the front runner is."

BAe, at 518p, was on the verge of clinching a deal with DaimlerChrysler of Germany before GEC barged into the fray.

Insurance shares had to contend with suggestions the holiday storms will cost the industry more than £100m. GRE was off 6p at 349p.

British Petroleum was down 8p at 903.5p. Just one hurdle remains to be its huge merger with Amoco can go ahead - clearance from the US Federal Trade Commission.

There are hopes the Federal Trade Commission will sit today allowing the deal to be completed tomorrow. If tomorrow



row's deadline is missed it is hoped the merger will go through next week. The new behemoth's capitalisation will be around £25bn, the biggest on the stock market.

Asda, up 4.25p to 163.25p, again responded to Wal-Mart bid rumours and Enterprise Oil, regarded as another takeover candidate, improved 5.5p to 28.5p.

As if to underline the low level of trading, the two shares leading the Footsie leader board were its most illiquid constituents.

Schroders rose 6p to 1,167p with volume put at 120,000 shares and the investment house's non-voting shares gained 51.5p to 996.5p with just 7,597 shares on the screen.

Takeover activity in the holiday industry, plus hopes of a bookends stampede, lifted Thomson Travel 11.5p to 160.5p. The shares are still below the spring-time flotation price and the 199p touched soon afterwards.

On the day of England's surprising Test victory against Australia, cricket coverage became a five issue with Galaxy Media and Television Corporation hoping to catch the next world cup.

Galaxy, up 15p to 76.5p, said it may bid for the next two World Cup competitions and TC, which has won the contract to cover domestic Test matches for Channel 4, will "almost certainly" attempt to cover the World Cup. TC shares gained 15p to 235p.

little sympathy with stockbrokers.

"We believe the concerns raised were overplayed and the dip in the price is an opportunity to buy," it said.

MS International, the IT recruitment group, made further headway, up 47.5p to 357.5p. An upbeat trading statement earlier this month has lifted the shares from a 140p low.

SEAG volume: 286.5 million  
SEAG trades: 35,620  
GILT INDEX: N/A

## \$1bn a day outflow hits Brazilian share prices

SHARE PRICES in Brazil dived as capital flows out of the country hit the \$1bn mark for the second day running yesterday.

The amount of money that has left the country in December has reached almost \$6bn, compared with just under \$2bn in November.

The capital flight has topped the amount of emergency finance Brazil has so far received under a \$41.6bn rescue package led by the International Monetary Fund, announced at the beginning of December.

Takeover offers again inspired European Motor, up 8p at 70p, and motor dealer DC Cook reversed 1.5p to 21.5p as a Henderson fund trimmed its stake to 7 per cent.

Trafficmaster, the vehicle security group, had an uncertain session, ending 21p lower at 53.2p.

A report that its new anti-theft device was unsafe found

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

turing debt, and nervousness about whether the country will satisfy the terms of the IMF-led loans. These require a huge cut in the government's budget deficit, but earlier this month the Brazilian Congress rejected proposals for narrowing the gap between spending and revenues. New proposals are due to be debated in January.

However, with interest rates at 30 per cent to protect the currency's peg against the US dollar, Brazil faces a deep recession. This is making many politicians unwilling to agree to

the spending cuts required by the IMF programme.

But the Fund's credibility is at stake as it was criticised for its handling of the Asian crisis.

A renewed crisis in Brazil would prove deeply embarrassing.

The US Treasury is also determined to make a success of the Brazilian rescue. "If Brazil hits trouble, the rest of Latin America would pick up the contagion, and US banks are particularly exposed to the region," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives.

The São Paulo Bovespa index fell 2.7 per cent yesterday after a near 4 per cent decline on Monday.

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE RATE CHANGE

The variable rate of mortgage interest will decrease by 0.50% from 1st January 1999. This notice is applicable to borrowers whose mortgage payments are updated annually.

The effect of this change will be included in the Annual Update of payments in January 1999.

**STROUD & SWINDON BUILDING SOCIETY**

**STROUD & SWINDON MORTGAGE COMPANY LIMITED**

### NOTICE OF INTEREST RATES ON INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

The following interest rates on our currently marketed branch based and ~~and~~ investment accounts become effective from 1st January 1999.

PRODUCT	BALANCE	OLD GROSS RATE	NEW GROSS RATE	NEW NET RATE
120 DAY ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£100,000 and over	7.16	6.60	5.28
	£50,000 to £99,999	6.80	6.30	5.04
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.55	6.00	4.80
	£10,000 to £24,999	6.00	5.50	4.40
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.75	5.25	4.20
	£2,000 to £4,999	5.00	4.50	3.60
60 DAY ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 and over	5.90	5.40	4.32
	£25,000 to £49,999	5.50	5.00	4.00
	£10,000 to £24,999	5.25	4.75	3.80
	£5,000 to £9,999	4.50	4.00	3.20
	£2,000 to £4,999	4.25	3.75	3.00
TESSA with Annual Interest	7.00	6.40	5.12	
BRANCH INSTANT with Annual Interest	5.26	4.76	3.81	
CLASSIC GOLD (Annual Interest Rates)	£250,000 and over	4.30	3.80	3.04
	£25,000 to £49,999	4.00	3.50	2.80
	£10,000 to £24,999	3.60	3.10	2.48
	£5,000 to £9,999	3.10	2.60	2.08
	£500 to £4,999	2.55	2.05	1.64
	£500 to £2499	2.00	2.00	1.60
MONEY BOX ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£500 and over	6.50	6.00	4.80
	£5 to £499	6.25	5.75	4.60
TREASURER'S TRUST ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 and over	3.65	3.15	2.52
	£25,000 to £49,999	3.20	2.70	2.16
	£10,000 to £24,999	2.70	2.50	2.00
	£5,000 to £9,999	2.45	2.25	1.80
	£500 to £4,999	2.20	2.10	1.68
	£500 to £2499	2.00	2.00	1.60
INSTANT ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 and over	6.85	6.35	5.08
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.35	5	



# SPORT

FA Cup: Brian Talbot will tackle Leeds with a squad of full-time players roared on by a capacity crowd at Nene Park

## No flaws in Rushden's diamonds

BY PHIL SHAW

 IN 1992, when Leeds United were kicking off the inaugural Premier League campaign as champions, 315 spectators gathered in the Northamptonshire town of Irthlingborough to watch Rushden & Diamonds start life by drawing with Bilton in the Beazer Homes League (Midland Division).

On Saturday, a full house of 6,472 – more than the population of Irthlingborough – will witness the latest chapter in the rise and rise of Rushden & Diamonds. Nene Park, redeveloped as a stylish stadium within a sports and entertainment complex, plays host to Leeds in the third round of the FA Cup.

The visionary behind the would-be giant-killers is the owner of the Doc Martens footwear empire, Max Griggs. When he merged Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds and talked of League status by 2000, people questioned his sanity. They now lie third in the Conference, nine points behind nearby Kettering but with five games in hand.

Leeds will no more encounter a bunch of plumbers, teachers and insurance salesmen than a sloping mudheap or a damp dressing-room. Under the management of Brian Talbot, the former England midfielder who holds the title of head coach, Rushden & Diamonds have nearly 30 full-time players.

With support booming – 4,400 watched Monday's win over Woking – and the restaurants, bars, conference facilities, gymnasium, sauna and banqueting suites thriving, Griggs is confident the club will become self-financing. In the meantime, perhaps the song played after every home game, "Diamonds are Forever", should be followed by another from the Shirley Bassey songbook, "Big Spender".

Photographs by David Ashdown & Northampton Evening Telegraph



MAX GRIGGS

I WAS on the Northampton board when they played at the county cricket ground. I didn't see the point of putting a few million into a team rather than a club. The set-up here is much more than a football club. The Diamond Centre is a focal point for the community. The football's the fun bit in the middle.

It's got to be fun or it isn't worth doing, is it? We may have spent £20m creating all this but in a way we've just swapped money for assets. We've still got the land, a 70-acre site, so people who think we've just poured money into a non-League team are missing the point. You create things around the club to offset the costs.

I once said I wanted to be in the League by the end of the century and we could actually do it this sea-



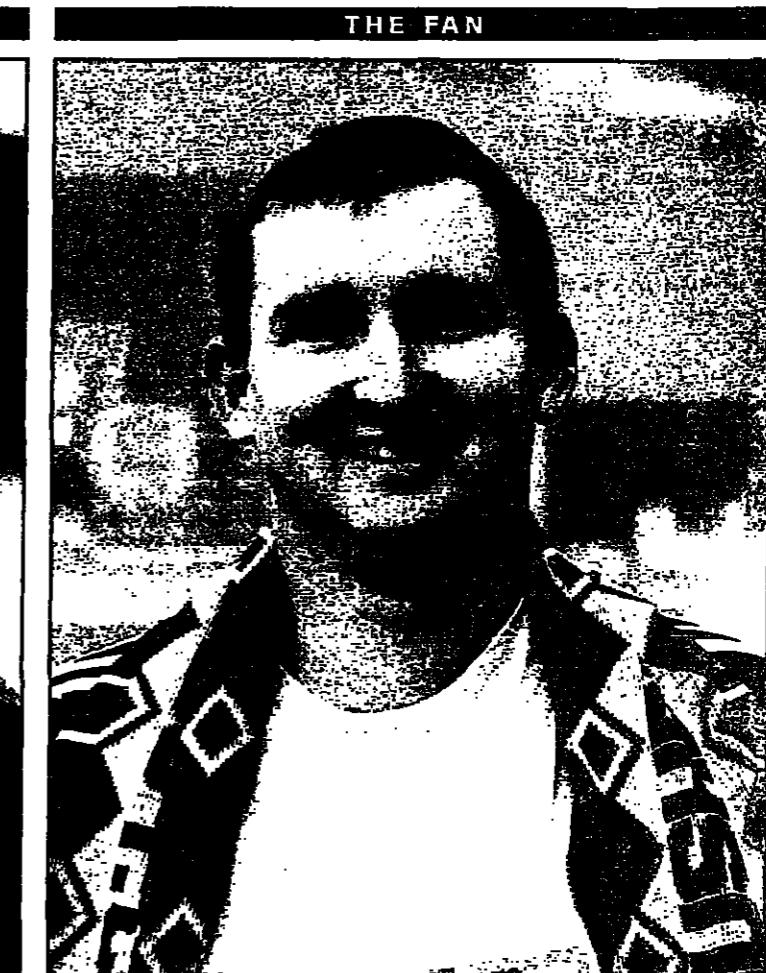
BRIAN TALBOT

MY PRIORITY is to win promotion from the Conference, but this game with Leeds is a lovely distraction. When the chairman asked me to join the club last year he said: 'Come and have some fun'. Well it doesn't get much more enjoyable or exciting than this.

If we had a bad playing surface and run-down facilities we might have had a chance. But it won't be like Stevenage and Newcastle. We'll treat Leeds with the respect they deserve, which is immense. You ask David O'Leary which player he'd take off me and there wouldn't be one; I'd take every one of his. David and I played together at Highbury and shared a room at the Grosvenor before the 1979 FA Cup final. He was always a thinker.

Leeds will find this is no ordinary non-League set-up, to put it mildly, but the perception of us as a wealthy club puts pressure on my players. The supporters expect a lot of them because of the money that's been spent and the facilities here. They think we've got a divine right to win things, but no one has.

All I know is that there's only one League place available and we're as good as any team in the Conference.



MARK STRINGER

WHEN I was 16 I started watching Rushden Town youth and reserves because a mate played for them, and I began following them. Our main ambition was survival. We were getting gates of 50 to 100, and when we finished 14th in the Beazer Homes Premier Division we got promoted because the ground was in such disrepair.

I feel it's inevitable that we'll get into the League. I remember seeing Wimbledon's name on the Southern League championship shield, which made me think. It's like a roller-coaster ride. We don't know where it'll lead, though I can honestly see us reaching the Premiership.

I work locally as a carpenter and everyone's talking about the Leeds game. For me, making it a great day is more important than the result, as long as we don't lose heavily. The publicity will help us attract the players we need to keep going forward.

THE PLAYER



RAY WARBURTON

UNTIL OCTOBER I was the Northampton captain and had led them in two Wembley play-off finals. I had big reservations about dropping into the Conference, but in the end I viewed it as a sideways step. We'll certainly go up to the Third Division, if not this season then the next. I was in League football for 15 years and this is the most professional set-up I know.

I signed in time to play in the fourth qualifying round at Leatherhead and was fortunate enough to get a last-minute equaliser. We won the replay 4-0, then put out Shrewsbury and Doncaster. I'm a Yorkshireman, from Rotherham, so to be drawn against Leeds was beyond my best dreams. I only hope I'm fit when my knee ligaments before Christmas.

This is the biggest game the club's had, not the most important. Newcastle came here for a friendly when Kevin Keegan was manager but a competitive match against a top Premiership side – that's something else. If we hit top form and get the luck, and they don't fancy it, who knows?

Leeds certainly won't be able to use the pitch or facilities as an excuse. That's a problem for us in the Conference: every visiting team

raise their game. It's like Northampton going to Elland Road or Hillsborough. And when we play away we get called "moneybags". We are well paid – though nowhere near the two grand a week some papers say we're on – and that riles some teams.

TONY JONES

I WAS among a group of lads who formed an Under-18 team in 1946. We were inspired by Moscow Dynamo, who had just completed their famous British tour so we called ourselves Irthlingborough Dynamos. We soon decided it was too copycat and amended it to Diamonds. I became secretary at 18 and it was my baby.

We graduated to semi-pro level in the United Counties League, and in '59 we opened our own ground on this site. In the early 90s, with me getting older, crowds lower and money tighter, I decided I wanted out, provided the Diamonds lived on. I offered the club to two ex-players who were businessmen. They said no, but Max agreed to take it on as long as I stayed on board as vice-chairman.

For two weeks he was chairman of Irthlingborough Diamonds. Then he said: 'What about merging with Rushden? They're in a mess'. I watched the stand and clubhouse we'd built get bulldozed away in two hours, but there are no regrets. Besides, the memories live on. One of the photos hanging in the various



suites shows Brian Talbot awarding the prizes at our dinner 20 years ago, soon after he'd joined Arsenal.

I regard this tie as a great opportunity to project ourselves to players who don't want the stigma of going non-League. I watched

Leeds at Arsenal and for half an hour their youngsters ran them ragged. I've never seen football played so fast. So there's a little bit of trepidation mixed in with a feeling of enormous excitement.

## Futcher relaxed about his future direction

Southport's manager has just taken on a new role in midfield. Can he conjure the downfall of Leyton Orient? By Dave Hadfield

YOU ARE a 42-year-old non-League manager with an FA Cup the looming. What better time to be trying out a new playing position? That is the situation of Paul Futcher, player-manager of Southport, of the Football Conference, potential giant-killers when they host Leyton Orient at Baig Avenue on Saturday.

A mere 26 years after starting his long League career as a central defender with his home-town club, Chester, Futcher is trying midfield for size. Presumably, if that does not work out, he can be expected to have a run up front with the youth team.

"I played part of a season there for Oldham, but it's not a position I ever really saw myself playing," he says. "It's not something I could see myself doing for a long period of time, but for the last three or four games I haven't had a lot of other options."

Futcher occupied more familiar territory when he brought himself as a substitute in Southport's startling victory over Mansfield in the last round; indeed, there can hard-

ly be a more experienced defender still playing at a good level in Britain. As a young up-and-comer at Luton, he looked a certainty for full England caps, rather than the Under-21 and Football League honours for which he ultimately had to settle.

With his twin, Ron, very much as the makeweight, he was a big-money signing when Tony Book was in charge at Manchester City; 20 years and about as many managers ago. The returning Malcolm Allison never fancied him as much and he left after two seasons, taking in Oldham, Derby, Barnsley, Halifax and Grimsby on the rest of his career.

"As a young player, I really used to play it off the cuff. I used to stroke it about and, in those days, you could always play it back to the goalkeeper, but I still made the odd mistake."

He is now midway through his second season with Southport, having guided them to the final of the FA Trophy in his first. Adventures in

"I was a good player, but I'd always give you a chance. When I was at Luton as a 17-year-old, though, I was a bit like that lad at Villa, Gareth Barry."

Notable prodigy as he was, Futcher reckons he played some of his best – and certainly most mature – football at Grimsby when he was already deep into his mid-30s. He even had a spell in charge there on a caretaker basis but was not wanted when a permanent appointment was made.

"I played League football until 39 and I just went to Droylsden to keep fit. But from there I got a phone call to be player-manager at Gresley and had a fair bit of success there for 18 months."

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Paul Futcher: Has not even watched the opposition Peter Jay

counted as good luck for Orient, beaten by Conference opposition in the Cup for the past two seasons and rather unconvincing winners over another Conference side, Kingston, in the second round.

Futcher is so relaxed about it all that he has not even watched the op-

tions of the quarter-finals. He was not planning to rush into a decision on what role he will play in this tie, but it is hard to imagine him resisting the temptation. He does, after all, live in the Yorkshire town of Holmfirth, 70 miles from Southport, about 75 from the sea and famous as the setting for *Last of the Summer Wine*.

It could be the last swallow for Futcher.

"I'm not going to go on flogging a dead horse, although I'm still fit," he says.

It will not, however, the result goes, be the end of the Futcher family involvement in the FA Cup. His sister's son is Liverpool's Danny Murphy; another nephew, Stephen Futcher, is at Wrexham, while Paul's own son, Ben, is a second year YTS trainee at Oldham.

As for Ron, he lives around the corner in Holmfirth and is a youth development officer at Bradford City. By Futcher standards, he's a bit of a half-hearted football man, though. He retired before he was 40.

# Brilliant catch becomes catalyst

TEST MATCHES don't come much better than this. From the very first ball on Sunday this elongated three-day match was a thriller. In the last act, England left Australia a target of 175 which did not, at the time, seem enough, and they appeared to be cruising to victory having passed a hundred for the loss of only two wickets when suddenly Mark Ramprakash produced a catch which cannot often have been equalled in the history of the game.

It broke the back of the Australians and showed that even this side of Mark Taylor's has its mortal condition. The other side of the same coin was that it unleashed a flood of self-confidence within the England side which in turn led to self belief and a mental hardness that had given up all hope of ever seeing from this lot.

Confidence is a strange will-o'-the-wisp. Here one moment, gone the next, often for no obvious or apparent reason, but Ramprakash's catch was inspirational. Alan Mullally bowed a short one to Justin Langer, who swivelled and hooked out of the middle of the bat with murderous power but without quite rolling his wrists.

Even the Waugh's could only nudge and push and run quick singles, although they are mighty good at all these things, and the flow of fours and threes, which were frequent on this outfit, dried up. Earlier, and most significantly, it had seemed at the time, Graeme Hick had missed an awkward catch low to his right at third slip of Mullally when Langer had made a single. Now, Mark Waugh played back to Headley and Hick went far and low to his left at second slip and came up with a beauty.

From the moment the ball left the bat, Hick moved with the confidence and the certainty he had lacked when Langer snicked, and Hick has never caught that well on his left. He had found some confidence, and later when Ian Healy edged Headley he made the awkward catch to his right look simple.

Warren Hepp never put a foot wrong behind the stumps and held everything that came his way, and the fielding generally was often brilliant.

As far as one could see, it all came together at the same time for everyone, for the first time in the series. Of course, it was a wonderful afternoon and evening for England's cricket, but it makes one wonder why we have had to wait this long. The Australians were far from overconfident and in the slightly weird and strange way that these things sometimes seem to happen it was that catch of Ramprakash's which made the difference.

This was roughly the same side which had dropped catches and bowled so poorly on that first day in Perth and which appeared to have given up the ghost in Adelaide. They will go to Sydney for Saturday's last Test in great spirits. It would be typical of this lot if they reverted at once to their Adelaide form and played as if Melbourne has never happened. But then they may not. We shall see.

Its immediate effect was to bring the side together as if some invisible puppet master had just picked up and tightened the strings of all 11 players.

Even though no wickets fell for a few minutes and all Aus-



**HENRY BLOFELD**  
IN MELBOURNE

tralia will have been certain that, with the Waugh twins together, a happy ending was assured. Alan Mullally bowled his best spell of the series and was desperately unlucky as batsmen played and missed while Dean Headley, who has not achieved much in Australia, found a rhythm and a control which is too often missing.

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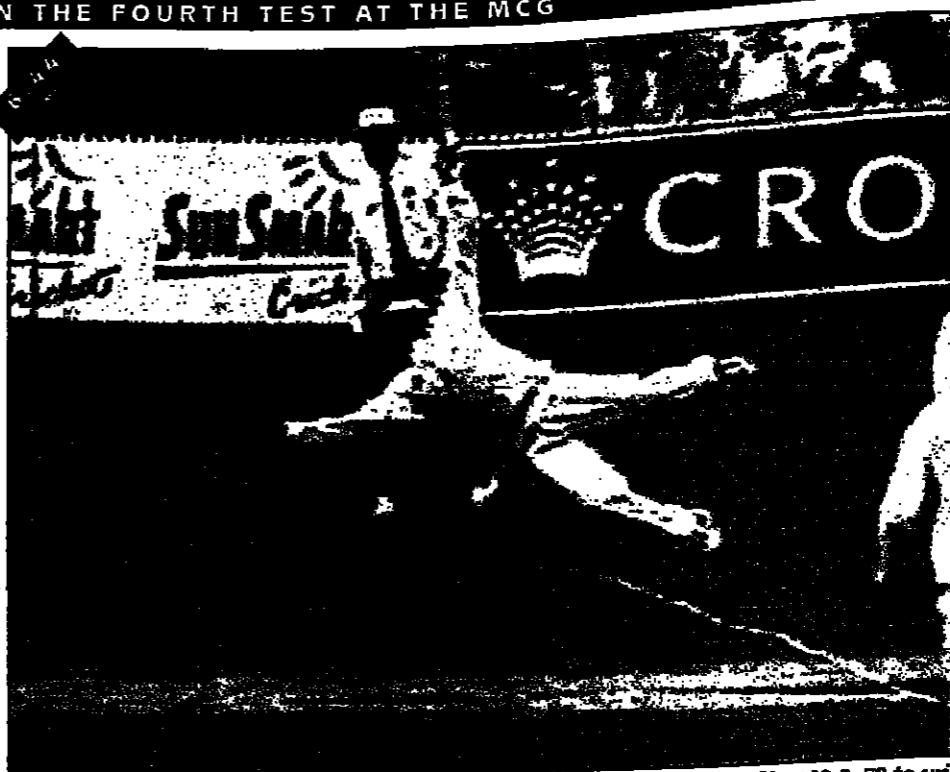
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Alan Mullally puts sting in the England tail

THE FIRST real indication that yesterday's play might provide something out of the ordinary came with England's last-wicket stand. Alan Mullally and Angus Fraser had scored just five runs between them in the series before yesterday's second innings, but they proceeded to add what proved to be a vital 23 runs.

Even so, there was no indication of the drama to come as the home side set off towards their target of 175. As viewers and listeners were tuning in at breakfast time back in England, Australia were making steady progress. At 130 for the loss of just three wickets they were within 45 runs of their third victory in the series. One spectacular piece of fielding, however, was about to change the course of the match.



Langer c Ramprakash b Mullally. 30 Australia 103-3, 72 to win



M Waugh c Hick b Headley. 43 Australia 130-4, 45 to win



Lehmann c Hegg b Headley. 44 Australia 140-5, 35 to win



Healy c Hick b Headley. 0 Australia 140-6, 35 to win



Fleming lbw b Headley. 0 Australia 140-6, 35 to win



Nicholson c Hegg b Headley. 9 Australia 161-8, 14 to win



MacGill b Gough. 0 Australia 162-9, 13 to win



McGrath lbw b Gough. 0 Australia 162 all out, England win by 12 runs



Photographs: Allsport/Empics/BSkyB

## W Indies feel fury of South African backlash

SUPERIOR IN every department of the game, as much as on the field, South Africa completed their third successive victory over the West Indies by nine wickets midway through the fourth day of the third Test yesterday, securing the series with two matches remaining.

This was roughly the same side which had dropped catches and bowled so poorly on that first day in Perth and which appeared to have given up the ghost in Adelaide. They will go to Sydney for Saturday's last Test in great spirits. It would be typical of this lot if they reverted at once to their Adelaide form and played as if Melbourne has never happened. But then they may not. We shall see.

The captain, Hansie Cronje, praised his team as "a tremendous outfit", said there would be "no compromises" over the remaining Tests.

The South African coach,

BY TONY COZIER  
in Durban

West Indies 198 & 259  
South Africa 213 & 147-1  
S Africa win by nine wickets

Bob Woolmer, said the West Indies had "suffered the backlash" from their 2-1 series loss in England last summer. "I believe we played well enough to have won there but we learned a lesson and have come back much stronger," he added.

The captain, Hansie Cronje, praised his team as "a tremendous outfit", said there would be "no compromises" over the remaining Tests.

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West Indian woes were compounded by the sombre sight of their oldest and most faithful campaigner, Curtly Ambrose, taken to the dressing-room on a stretcher, writhing in pain. He tore his right hamstring muscle in an outfield chase as South Africa comfortably gathered the 146 runs they needed for the solitary loss of the opener, Herschelle Gibbs, whose left-handed partner, Gary Kirsten, drove the winning boundary through extra cover to be unbroken on 71.

The injury is likely to put the 36-year-old Walsh out of the fourth Test, starting in Cape Town on Saturday. If so, he will be sorely missed by a team desperately in need of inspiration.

There is also doubt about Curtly Ambrose, who failed to take a wicket in the match and who has been carrying a dodgy knee for some time.

Ahead by an insignificant

132 with only Ambrose and Walsh as remaining company for the dogged new wicket-keeper Ravi Jacobs, the West Indies could not even find inspiration from England's fightback in Melbourne, the progress of which was greeted with delighted cheers from a crowd of just over 9,000.

Ambrose heaved a catch to

deep mid-on off his fifth ball, providing Shaun Pollock with his fifth wicket of the innings, and Walsh missed one from Donald that would have tested the best No 3 - far less the worst No 11 - in Test cricket.

The West Indies, mainly

through Ambrose and Walsh, have retrieved such hopeless situations in the past but this fight has gone out of this team.

Their plight was typified in the over before lunch when Gibbs' top-edged stroke off leg-spinner Ravi Lewis lobbed gently towards midwicket where Jacobs, one of their few successes so far, ran from behind the stumps and dropped his first catch of the series.

Fourth day, South Africa won loss  
West Indies - First Innings 198 (5 C  
Lara 51; 11 Kallicharran 3-18, W Cope 5-10;  
N Rhodes 67; F A Rose 7-10)  
South Africa - First Innings 312 (0  
N Rhodes 67; F A Rose not out)

WICKETS - Second Innings  
(Overnight - 246 for 8)

R Jacobs not out ..... 15  
C E Ambrose c Cronje b Pollock ..... 5  
C A Water b Donald ..... 3  
E Botha (lbw, w, n/o) ..... 23  
Total (100) ..... 259  
Fall (out): 5-52.  
Bowling: Donald 20.2-4-62-3, Pollock 24.6-3-5 (br), Terblige 13-4-28-1, Gibbs 12-4-32-0 (2w).

SOUTH AFRICA - Second Innings  
G Kirsten not out ..... 71  
H H Gibbs lbw b Hooper ..... 49  
J M Botha not out ..... 23  
Excess (br, n/o) ..... 3  
Total (100) ..... 144  
Did not bat: DJ Giffen, "W" Cronje, J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, V M Boucher, P L Botha, A A Donald, DJ Terblige.  
Falling: Rose 9-31-0; Ambrose 4-0-50-1; Botha 24-0-43-0.

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Umpires: D L Orchard and R B Tiffin (2m).

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# Hunt is over for new idol

WHILE the hunting horses were vaulting shrubbery and swerving placards on Boxing Day, one of their former number was himself parading the message for country animals in the big city.

It is a salutary thought that Teetot Mill, the King George VI Chase winner at Kempton, would still be pottering around rural England had he not been a speculative purchase for a tip-punting company.

Stephen Winstanley, of The Winning Line, laid out £40,000 for the grey, largely due to the horse's record of excellence in the pointing field. Caroline Bailey, his previous trainer, was happy to let Teetot Mill go as the horse's medical book is as thick as a millman's ledger: "We decided that the offer was good and it was the right time to sell," she says. "Nobody else would have bought him with his legs like that."

Without that transaction, Teetot Mill would still be in liberty in Northamptonshire at Spratton ("the farm protected by the ridge"), and handing out horrible beatings to whatever crossed him in the pointing field. "Bunting was his life before he left here and he'd still be doing it if he was still around," Bailey says. "We always liked him, but obviously we didn't realise he was going to be as good as he showed at Kempton. We would probably have run him in the Cheltenham Foxhounds."

This was so nearly the equivalent of Ronaldo playing out his whole career on the Hackney Marshes.

The most startling of Teetot Mill's attributes is his jumping, and it is probably true that it is easier to leap without the Pytchley hounds yapping at your feet and getting in the way.

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

The grey now seems to effect the precision landings of an Indian fakir lowering himself to a bed of nails, yet in the old days he was bit of a duffer. There were two falls and an unseated in his first four outings.

"He was very weak as a youngster, but the dog can get better with age so we were happy to leave him alone," Bailey says. "We didn't over-race him or risk him on the firm, because we got a warning with his legs and the rewards of that

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
Nap: Goodtime George (Stratford 12.50)  
NB: Optimistic Thinker (Stratford 3.50)

policy are showing now.

"When he did start, he was unlucky. They were both very unfortunate falls because he slipped on landing." Then, one day, he carried Trevor Marks to victory at Guitingborough and a sequence had begun.

As he progressed, Teetot Mill hunted his way over used rails, hedgerows and whatever else Mother Nature could construct. He became most proficient. "When he was hunting, he used to come up against all sorts of obstacles and I'm sure that helped his jumping," Bailey says. "Hunting helps to bring your legs up. He was always very neat when he got in close."

"It's a good schooling ground and I think the top hunters like Spartan Missile, Grittar and now this horse have shown the best can hold their own. If you can get to one of the best pointing horses, they are probably in the top 10 to 15 three-mile chasers in the country."

## STRATFORD

### HYPERION

12.50 Beau Brummie Boy 2.50 Bold Statement  
1.20 Brown Seal 3.20 Play Games  
1.50 Fair Springs 3.50 Optimistic Thinker (nb)  
2.20 GLOWING PATH (nap)

GOING: Soft

11 Course is SW with Stratford 2nd. Run-in.

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11 LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 32 wins from 124 runners (25.9%). D Nicholson 18-54

11 LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 34 wins from 146 rides (23.3%). R Johnson 22-7

11 FAVOURITES: 77/100 from 244 races (success rate 37.5%).

BLUNKERED FIRST TIME: Misty Rain (2.0).

12.50 RICHARDSONS OF OLD BURY MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (DIV 1) £23.00 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £2,250

1.05 BEAU BRUMMIE BOY (25) (Mrs Dore Williams) 11/5 - M R Fitzgerald  
1.20 EDGE AHEAD (11) (Mrs S Thorne Thomas) Miss D Hane 8 1/5 - M A Fitzgerald  
2.00 55/22 GOODTIME GEORGE (41) (Mr J M Boni) Mrs P 15 1/5 - R Denney  
2.05 6/5 KALEM (12) (Mrs D Thompson) P Hobbs 6 1/5 - G Toney  
2.47-5 PERCY PARKEE (29) (Pter) Peter O'Brien 11/2-5 1/5 - C Lewellyn  
5 1/2-6 PEGGY'S BOY (11) (Mrs J M Boni) Mrs P 15 1/5 - G Toney  
6 1/2-7 REGAL BLUFF (29) (Mrs M Sherriff) M Macdonagh 6 1/5 - B Powell  
7 1/2-8 REMI DOOME (23) (St James Racing Club Cheltenham) N Babbage 6 1/5 - B Fenton  
9 1/2-10 RICHARDSONS (15) (Rams Partnership) Miss H 6 1/5 - J Collyer  
10 1/2-11 STRONG MAGIC (22) (A Johnson) Mrs C Johnsey 6 1/5 - D Gallegher  
10 1/2-12 FLYING FOOTIE (18) (Mike Roper) Mr J W Roberts 5 1/5 - M R Fitzgerald

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### FORM GUIDE

Cardiac Arrest: Placed 3rd once from 2 outings in this point-to-points last spring.

Run prominently until 2 out when 5th in a Townsire novice hurdle on his only outing last season and should do better over fences.

Cardiac Arrest: Placed at two-year absence and showed plenty of ability in 3 outings over hurdles, particularly when 4th to Not For Turning at Kempton. Looks for more.

Cardiac Arrest: Has won 2 last point-to-points and showed his first sign of ability here after being pulled up twice when 3rd at Stratford last time. However, was beaten 2 out when 5th in a Townsire novice hurdle on his only outing last season and should do better over fences.

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# Gallagher's rethink gives Arsenal hope

ARSENAL WERE last night hoping that the season of goodwill from referees to players continues after Aston Villa's goalkeeper was given a reprieve by the referee Dermot Gallagher for his sending-off in the Boxing Day game against Blackburn.

Gallagher plans to write to the Football Association informing them that he made a "genuine error of judgment" in Oakes' case - and that will give hope to Arsène Wenger in his bid to force another referee, Uriah Rennie, into a similar change of heart over the red card he showed Patrick Vieira for use of the elbow in Monday's game at Charlton.

While Villa's hopes of continuing their quest for the Premiership title will be vastly improved by the news, Arsenal's chances of retaining the championship could be harmed irreparably by a suspension for Vieira, according to their former player Alan Smith.

The Oakes reprieve came after Gallagher reviewed video evidence with his linesman, Dave Horlick, and the Premier League referee's officer, Philip Don. The incident occurred with Villa trailing 1-0 in a game they went on to lose 2-1, and one which left the Villa manager, John Gregory, fuming with Gallagher.

Oakes caught a loose ball just inside his own area with his momentum carrying him forward, although he immediately released the ball as he reached the 18-yard line. Gallagher, however, decided to issue a red card after the linesman had flagged, wrongly as it turned out, to indicate that Oakes had handled the ball outside the penalty area.

The furore, with the Sky

BY MARK PIERSON

cameras proving Oakes did not handle the ball out of his area, spurred Gallagher to look at video replays along with Horlick and Don.

A Premier League spokesman, Mike Lee, said: "Dermot Gallagher, in consultation with Philip Don, the Premier League's referees' officer, has reviewed the video of the sending-off of Aston Villa goalkeeper Michael Oakes in the game against Blackburn.

"In discussion with referee's assistant Dave Horlick, they have concluded that there was a genuine error of judgment by the assistant.

"Mr Gallagher will now be writing to the FA to inform them of his conclusion, with a view to the sending-off not being dealt with as a disciplinary matter."

The matter is now in the hands of the FA, who are certain to take the recommended views of Gallagher and quash Oakes' red card, according to Don.

Don said: "At the end of the day we want to see the right decisions are made and Dermot has agreed to write to the FA and inform them an error was made.

"I would now expect the FA to reverse the decision once they receive Dermot's letter and his report.

"It's obviously good news for Aston Villa, but if we are seen to be making the right moves, then on this occasion's behalf to the credit of the referee's assistant."

Meanwhile, Vieira is due for a suspension after he became Arsenal's sixth player this season to be sent off, in Monday's game at Charlton. The Gunners

have also accumulated 46 yellow cards between them this season, a record that their former striker Smith feels will seriously disrupt their chances of defending the title.

"It is a problem," said Smith, who was booked just once in his entire Arsenal career, in the 1993 FA Cup final replay against Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley. "With all the injuries Arsenal have had, the last thing they need is to lose players like Vieira through suspension.

"I felt for him because his sending-off at Charlton looked harsh, and if the suspension is upheld then they will miss him."

Smith, like everybody else, cannot understand why Arsenal attract such a bad record, but he fears it will be harmful in the long-run.

He said: "It has been a long-standing problem, the discipline at Arsenal. It is something which doesn't get any better."

"Arsene needs all his boys together. It is bad enough that they are not going to have Nicolas Anelka and Dennis Bergkamp for a while through injury - that will affect them without having to worry about suspensions."

"In the final run-in last season Arsenal had everybody available, and I think they need that if they are going to have a good chance of retaining their title."

Arsenal have appealed to referee Rennie to reverse Vieira's red card after television evidence had suggested the offence was not as serious as it might have seemed.

Besides Vieira, the other five Arsenal players to be dismissed this season are Petit, Lee Dixon, Martin Keown, Ray Parlour and Gilles Grimandi.



Aston Villa's Michael Oakes is dismissed by Dermot Gallagher at Ewood Park on Boxing Day Action Images

## Freund to make friends at Spurs Beckenbauer fears Brazil

GEORGE GRAHAM can hardly wait for Steffen Freund, Tottenham's latest German import, to arrive in the new year and provide the glint of steel which he believes is fundamental to his White Hart Lane revolution.

But having wrapped up the £750,000 signing of the tough-tackling international midfielder from Borussia Dortmund last week, Graham has agreed to honour Freund's commitment to a family holiday with his wife, Ilka, and their two children during the Bundesliga's mid-season winter break.

Freund, a qualified locksmith, is expected to make his Tottenham debut at Sheffield Wednesday on 9 January.

Graham is convinced he will soon become known to the Spurs fans as their midfield enforcer as well as a player who can open more doors for an already well-qualified attack.

Jürgen Klinsmann was the star who restored charisma to Tottenham - even during some dark days under previous managers, Ossie Ardiles, Gerry Francis and Christian Gross - but Freund is the battler Graham believes Spurs now need most of all to help establish an era of lasting success.

The Spurs manager said: "I'm delighted to have signed him and he will be coming here to do what he is good at - winning the ball and then passing it."

"There is great enthusiasm

running through the side now, but we still need something more to make sure the improvement continues.

"It's something that the top teams like Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea all have, players who dominate the midfield and make others play."

This guy has all the experience in the world with Borussia Dortmund in their European campaigns and with Germany as part of their squad in Euro 96 and the World Cup finals. It will be a couple of weeks before he's here, but he'll soon become a big favourite with the fans."

Monday's 4-1 win over Everton was Tottenham's most conclusive White Hart Lane victory for two years and further proof

that Graham is getting the maximum out of a squad who flattered dangerously with relegation last season. The win extended an unbeaten home record under Graham to eight matches, but he is far from satisfied with a respectable mid-table position.

Freund is only Graham's second signing for Spurs, and he is still waiting for the £1.6m former Ipswich full-back, Mauricio Taricco, to recover fully from an ankle injury after his move to Tottenham five weeks ago.

Freund has 21 German caps, but his international career has been dogged by injuries and he has not yet figured in the plans of the new German

coach, Erich Ribbeck. Freund was born in Brandenburg and was one of the first East German players to be capped by the unified international side. He played for Schalke 04 before joining Borussia Dortmund in 1993.

His contract at Dortmund was due to expire at the end of this season and he would have become a free agent. The Tottenham director of football, David Pleat, said: "We wanted to do the deal now because Freund is the kind of midfield action man that every club needs."

Now Graham is looking at the French midfielders Alain Goma (Paris St Germain) and Michael Debeve (Lens) as possible targets.

FRANZ BECKENBAUER believes Brazil poses a greater threat to Germany's hopes of staging the 2006 World Cup than England, but the suggestion could be another attempt to belittle England's bid. The initial deadline for applications is two days away.

The newly elected vice-president of the German Football Association and head of Germany's World Cup organising committee personally handed in his country's bid to Fifa, the world game's ruling body.

England, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Ghana and Morocco are the other six nations vying for the right to stage the tournament, with the latter three regarded as virtual non-starters. Candidates have until 30 April next year to confirm their official bid. A Fifa spokesman said he did not expect Argentina and Nigeria to apply.

Beckenbauer said: "It's up to us to show the world that Germany is the best place to organise a World Cup. But I regard Brazil as the more dangerous rival to Germany, although we still have a lot of homework to do."

Beckenbauer thinks South Africa, the apparent choice of the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, will struggle to meet the strict criteria for hosting the World Cup laid down by the game's governing body. Fifa require that eight to 12 stadiums have a capacity of at least

40,000, with one ground able to accommodate 80,000-plus and another over 60,000.

In the first week of January, Fifa will start asking questions concerning security, taxes, customs, visas and telecommunications, before delving into other matters like infrastructure, accommodation and transport facilities in the bidding countries, as well as arrangements for ticket sales and the specific circumstances of the grounds included in the bids.

Beckenbauer and the German FA's president, Egidius Braun, are soon to meet the German finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, and the home secretary, Otto Schily, to ask them to abolish certain taxes, which if enforced would reduce Fifa's profits.

■ Joseph Blatter, the chairman of Fifa, is concerned about the influx of money into football watering down its real value as a people's sport. In an article in Germany's sports weekly Kicker, Blatter also says he is also concerned by the influence of business and television on the game. "Even accepting the rules of supply and demand, we must still ask ourselves whether too much money comes into play, whether the players have lost their moderation and become too egotistical and influential? Is not the influence of industry, television, and even politics too great?"

The veteran Italian midfielder, Nicola Berti, is leaving Tottenham to join Fluminense in Brazil. The Rio club said yesterday that the 31-year-old would sign a two-year contract with them on Saturday. The contract, said to be worth £250,000 a year, is expected to be financed in part by Brazil's FonteCindam investment bank.

Berti, who played for Italy in the World Cups of 1990 and 1994, is part of a rebuilding campaign by Fluminense, who slipped into the equivalent of the Third Division last season after being one of Brazil's leading clubs in the Eighties.

The 31-year-old French defender, Jean-Guy Wallerme, who joined Coventry from Lens in the summer, is expected to complete his return to France today by signing for Sochaux.

## Oxford to launch League pay-per-view

OXFORD'S FIXTURE with Sunderland at the Manor Ground on 27 February will make football history when it becomes the first competitive Football League game in this country to be screened via pay-per-view.

The League yesterday announced details surrounding their pay-per-view experiment which they hope will lead to six matches broadcast by the end of the season.

Manchester City's trip to Colchester on 20 March has also been earmarked for live coverage, with both matches scheduled for a 6pm kick-off and broadcast by Sky Box Office.

The Football League are in

discussion with their member clubs in a bid to show up to four more live games, with each available to Sky subscribers for a one-off fee of £7.95.

Sky's coverage already takes in 60 matches plus the play-offs, and the League chief executive, Richard Scudamore, said: "It has long been known that football has been looking at the opportunities offered by pay-per-game broadcasting.

"We feel the time is right to show a limited number of games and Sky have helped us to do this. Television and football are constantly evolving and we have to be responsible.

"These matches will bring in

extra revenue for the clubs and the League at a time when it is very much needed, and fans who cannot get a ticket or travel to a game will welcome the chance to see them. However, both the Football League and Sky Television want to keep the correct balance of coverage and to ensure that existing broadcast arrangements are unaffected."

It is believed the financial split will see Sky take half of the subscribed fee, with the rest then divided three ways between the home team, away side and the Football League.

The League believes pay-per-view will provide them with much-needed leverage when it

comes to negotiating a new television deal. Spokesman Chris Hull said: "This is an opportunity for us to gather information and research into the pay-per-view concept. This is not a money-making exercise."

"There's also an element of customer care involved as we will be targeting matches which will quite clearly have a full capacity, with many fans unable to attend. The main thing is that pay-per-view will be beneficial to the Football League come the next round of TV deal negotiations, whenever they will be."

"Sky Sports will continue to show 60 live games from across the divisions of the Nationwide Football League, plus all three play-off finals live."

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40,000, with one ground able to accommodate 80,000-plus and another over 60,000.

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## Juventus may link Dugarry and Sukur

JUVENTUS ARE poised to pull off a double transfer coup and link the French World Cup winning forward Christophe Dugarry with leading Turkish striker Hakan Sukur.

Dugarry, 26, is believed to be on the point of joining the Italian Serie A giants from Marseilles at a fee of £14 million (£5.2m). The Italian newspaper *Gazzetta dello Sport* reported yesterday. It said Dugarry would join the Italian champions after the new year and would be ready to face his former club Milan in a league match on 6 January. Dugarry

has a clause in his contract which permits him to leave Marseilles at the end of this season for 14 billion lire, but the French club would be willing to release him immediately, the *Gazzetta* said.

Juventus have been scouring the transfer market for a replacement for Alessandro Del Piero, who has torn cruciate ligaments in his left knee.

And Sukur has revealed that he is also considering a move to Juventus from Galatasaray in a transfer which newspapers say is worth a possible £9m.

FOR THE second time this season Palmeiras have been accused of violent and unsportsmanlike conduct. On Tuesday, Cruzeiro, their opponents in the Copa Mercosur final, left no one in any doubt as to their feelings. "Palmeiras do not play hard, they play violently, they have been kicking players off the ball for a long time," said the Cruzeiro coach, Leirin Cipri.

"They celebrate goals with obscene gestures, provoke our players and, when their team is winning, the ball-boys vanish."

the team from São Paulo was violent. This could be seen as an overreaction to robust play until you realise that the Palmeiras coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari, has publicly urged his team to commit more fouls.

It could also be seen as a rather foolhardy reaction from Cipri as his team's 3-1 loss in the second leg forced a decider - to be played at Palmeiras.

Vasco da Gama's preparation for their game against Palmeiras earlier this season was to take out special insurance because they claimed

time on Monday. He succeeded Anatoly Byshovets, sacked this month after five months in charge and six consecutive losses, including three European Championship qualifiers.

Romantsev previously led Russia to the finals of Euro 96 but was dismissed after they gained just one point from three games.

Despite a 5-0 thrashing of Nigeria last week the chances of Catalonia entering separate teams in major competitions has been quickly dismissed. The minister of

state for sport, Santiago Fisas, said: "I'm not against the idea of regional selections playing friendly fixtures but I don't think it is possible given Spanish legislation, along with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee and international federations, that regional selections can take precedence over a Spanish national team."

The friendly was played before an almost capacity crowd at the Barcelona's Olympic Stadium, with banners demanding sporting independence and "Freedom for Catalonia".

AROUND THE WORLD

EDITED BY RICHARD WETHERELL

RUSSIA

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SWAZILAND

THE COUNTRY'S police force are having a wage cut to subsidise their team's participation in next year's Confederation of African Football Cup. All 2,500 policemen are to have more than 25 deducted from their next pay packet so their Royal Leopards can play first round in March.

# Miller makes turkeys of Tigers

BARBARIANS RUGBY no longer matters a fig, unless you happen to relish the opportunity of reminding your former employers that you can actually play a bit. Eric Miller, the Lion who failed to cut the mustard amongst the Tigers of Leicester reintroduced himself to the Welford Road faithful yesterday afternoon and took immense pleasure in force-feeding Dean Richards, Martin Johnson and company an unpalatable helping of ice-cold turkey.

Eighteen months ago, Miller was the talk of this remarkable sporting town christened the "new Deano" by a crowd reared on back-row brilliance, he made the Lions tour of South Africa with something to spare and would have started the first Test in Cape Town had

## RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

Leicester 24  
Barbarians 33

he not fallen ill 48 hours before kick-off. At which point, his career went into free-fall. His form and fitness dipped. Leicester stopped picking him and his appetite quickly disappeared in the same direction as his confidence.

Hence his decision to cut his losses and head back home to Ireland. It has done him the world of good, clearly. Together with his no-nonsense partners from mainland Europe, Massimo Giovannelli and Jan Machacek, he gave his old club-mates their biggest seasonal

hurry-up since they last tackled the new year sales. Miller's try four minutes into the second half bore the stamp of a genuine footballer and it gave the Baa-Baas, who spent all of four hours preparing for the game, the launch-pad for a third consecutive victory over their traditional Christmas hosts.

## Proudfoot boost for Scotland

SCOTLAND'S HOPES of a successful Five Nations campaign received a boost yesterday as the prop Matt Proudfoot prepared to return to competitive rugby following a neck injury. The front row man is hoping to turn out for Melrose seconds this weekend after three months on the sidelines.

Craig Chalmers, that evergreen outside-half from the Scottish borders, made the other telling contribution, registering 13 points in a flawless display of goal-kicking. The 14,000-plus crowd were not amused by his decision to take the penalty points as Leicester's midfield stumbled offside six minutes

from time – apparently, it was not in keeping with the occasion – but as the favourite son of Melrose pointed out later, even Barbarians recognise a main chance when they see one.

Leicester might well have notched a victory had their front-line internationals stayed the course, but Johnson and Neil

Back were both gone inside 30 minutes and Richard Cockerill was withdrawn at half-time. Most dammingly of all, Leon Lloyd, who looked a handful on the left wing, left after 26 minutes. "He got a bit of a bump," said Richards, whose diagnostic skills are unlikely to bring about a 21st century revolution in medical science.

In all seriousness, Lloyd looked sharp enough to warrant the once-over from Clive Woodward. The England coach is probably loath to watch any more wings, having chosen 12 of them in 16 months, but any one quick enough to give as sharp an opponent as Derek Stark the run-around must have something going for him. Lloyd created an opening try for Back on nine minutes before

finishing beautifully himself five minutes later and Leices- ter were nowhere near as threatening in his absence.

Leicester: Tries: Back, Lloyd, Johnson, Cockerill. Conversions: Johnson, 2. Bar- barians: Tries: Evans, Miller, Martin, Guiney, Machacek. Conversations: Chalmers 5. Penalty Chalmers.

BY JOHN ROBERTS

PETE SAMPRAS will not play for the United States against Britain in the first round of the Davis Cup World Group at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena next Easter 12 to 4 April. The world No 1 has told the United States captain, Tom Gullikson, that his quest for individual honours comes before playing for his country.

"Winning the Slams and staying No 1, that's my priority," Sampras said in an interview with the *New York Times*. "and I feel if I try to play Davis Cup, those other things will be in jeopardy. I'm in a special situation here with these records, and I hope people can understand that, though I know some won't."

Sampras, world No 1 for a record six seasons, has won 11 Grand Slam singles titles, one short of the record held by the Australian Roy Emerson. The 27-year-old Californian, a member of victorious Davis Cup teams in 1992 and 1995, declared himself unavailable this year when the Americans were beaten in the semi-finals by Italy, 4-1, in Milwaukee.

Andre Agassi also missed the Italy match because it clashed with his annual charity show in Las Vegas. Agassi has been at odds with the United Tennis Association, but it is hoped that a change of administration will persuade him to play in Birmingham. In Sampras's absence, Agassi and Todd Martin may provide the opposition for Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the singles.

Sampras has traced some of his past injury problems to Davis Cup matches. He has also been critical of a perceived lack of interest in the tournament among Americans, and was particularly disappointed with the response to his courageous display in the 1995 final against Russia in Moscow.

Britain last played the United States in the 1978 final in California. John McEnroe making his debut in a 4-1 victory for the home nation. The original Davis Cup match was between the United States and the British Isles in Boston in 1900. Sampras has been "feeling some heat to play" because of the historical context of the match in Birmingham.

The United States will mark the Davis Cup centenary with a match in Boston in July, whether they beat Britain and meet Australia or Zimbabwe in the second round, or are involved in a tie to avoid a relegation play-off.

Sampras said he would not play in the first round merely to help the Americans reach the second. "I can't commit to something unless I'm going to finish what I start," he told the *New York Times*.

## Sampras' put-down for the Davis Cup

### TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS

IT WAS not so much a case of when the boat comes in as when the plane puts down for the North-east's youngest sporting franchise.

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"I've known Shane for a long time and the calibre of player he was talking about bringing here was a huge attraction. Looking around, he's been as good as his word."

The fact that we're all Australian could possibly count against us with the local people. It's up to us to go out and win some football matches and make ourselves part of the community that way. Every body likes winners."

Training to winners starts in earnest on Monday, after a second tranche of players flies in from Australia to join their fellow-countrymen and a sprinkling of home-based players, including – in what sounds like a music hall joke – an Irishman, a Welshman and a Geordie.

Another of the driving forces behind the new club, Keith Hetherington, makes no apologies for launching the side with such a strong Australian contingent.

"We left on Monday night after the holiday weekend and we've been getting to know each other on the flight," said Ben Sammut, a 23-year-old full-back or hooker whose only previous visit to England was to play for Cronulla in the World

Club Championship 18 months ago.

"A lot of us hadn't met each other before, so this has been a good start for us. We're all up for it and looking forward to it as an adventure, especially as we're launching a new club."

"I've known Shane for a long time and the calibre of player he was talking about bringing here was a huge attraction. Looking around, he's been as good as his word."

The Thunder, particularly Richardson, an experienced administrator Down Under, have certainly searched hard and productively in Australia, with the South Sydney scrum-half, Willie Peters, perhaps their most startling acquisition.

Peters has been tipped as a future Australian Test half-back, which makes it all the more remarkable that he should have uprooted at the age of 19 to play for a new franchise

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# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

# Giant Haystacks is dead. Long live wrestling

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN



**W**hen Dave "Iron Duke" Lynch attended the funeral of Giant Haystacks earlier this month, many at the Salford graveside thought they had come to bury British wrestling. Haystacks, a brute of a figure standing nearly seven feet tall and weighing in at almost 50 stone, had been the bad man of the ring. During the sport's heyday in the Seventies, stars such as himself could pull in more viewers than *Coronation Street* and even, on one occasion, the FA Cup Final. Just a year before, the old-timers had bid a similar farewell to Big Daddy, Haystacks' great rival, the good guy in this pantomime. He was the wrestler whom the kids and the grannies loved to watch as he bounced opponents off his vast stomach.

The contrast at the funeral between past and present could not have been clearer. "We loved Giant Haystacks," recalls Lynch, "but here was this big, ugly fella being lowered down in this huge coffin by three of his sons. They were normal, good-looking lads about six foot tall. They could have been male models. Although no-one said it, everyone felt this was the end of an era."

The mourners were probably right. The death of traditional British wrestling, which many always suspected to be a thinly disguised joke, has been lingering for a decade, ever since it was dropped from its Saturday afternoon slot on ITV just before the football results. The days when Kent Walton's screaming commentary created near hysteria in the nation's living rooms are long over - today, the only star left is Pat Roche, who as "Bomber", the wrestler in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, was fortunate in enjoying a television persona denied to his contemporaries starved of screen exposure.

Nevertheless, out of the current demise is springing an extraordinary revival. British wrestling looks set to be the latest craze. Partly the opportunity is there because the appetite for wrestling remains a relatively young one. Ask anyone between the ages of 20 and 45 about wrestling and, more than likely, their eyes will light up with nostalgia for a sport which fascinated many children of all classes, and then just seemed to disappear.

Typically, the names of Mick MacManus (a great grunter) and Kendo Nagasaki (the rather frightening man in the mask) still trip off the tongue. When come happy thoughts of moves such as the Boston Crab and Half Nelson, which were practised repeatedly on younger siblings and which occupy the same memory space as *Dr Who* and *Blue Peter*. It is a space that remains unfilled in middle age, the sanitised *Gladiators* being a poor substitute.

If wrestling takes off again in 1999, it will also be

The late Giant Haystacks, top, and right, new boy Phil Powers Andrew Buurman

because of new, ambitious talent, which can barely hide its contempt for the old-timers. Men such as Steve Knight, whose style and youthful good looks make him widely tipped for stardom as the David Beckham of the new era. He is just 23, 14 stone and 5ft10 tall. His cropped blond hair, blue eyes, muscular physique and a tan fresh from Tenerife combine to make him look very different from the great hulking wrestlers of the Seventies. More like Haystacks' sons than the giant himself. And, in the ring, you don't find this flying fighter embroiled in those boring battles of the Titans, in which two huge old blokes slug it out, sitting on top of one another, grunting.

Oh no. Dressed in red and yellow leotard and boots, plus tasseled arms and legs, Knight is boyish and athletic, but with a ruthless streak. "I specialise in what I call the 'Knight driver,'" he



says. "I pick a bloke up and put him on to my shoulders. Then I throw him off, face first, on to the floor in what is called a 'power bomb'. The match always ends when that comes off."

Knight also knows how to talk about the sport and inspire an audience. There is, he says, much more skill and danger involved in the new style of wrestling. "To get yourself in with the crowd, it's no longer good enough just to bounce someone off your stomach. You have to go up on to the rope, jump from the top and backflip on to the concrete outside the ring, hopefully landing on your opponent."

Hopefully," he says. This is dangerous work.

"Injuries? I've had plenty. I've broken ankles, arms, my nose three times and six of my fingers. But this is the type of thing you have to do if you are going to grab attention today." If the sport moves in the direction he favours, it will cre-

ate heroes of men like him, admired by young male bodybuilders and salivated over by young women. The change may even be welcomed by wrestling's grannies, who in the old days could be spotted screaming at the ringside like the tricoteuses of the French Revolution, who sat knitting as the guillotine claimed another victim.

Steve Knight has been studying Japanese professional wrestling (different from sumo), which is the most successful in the world and much admired for its skill. But he has also watched as the televised American sport, with its razzmatazz and theatre, has made British wrestling look as dated as *Acting* *Stanley* were fielded to play *Alex Ferguson's* *Manchester United*.

He is not the only one with an eye on the future. A new breed of promoter promises to transform the way the sport is marketed. In October, the newly formed, British-based Ultimate Wrestling Alliance held its first event. Everyone in the business says that the show, held at a country club in Epping Forest, east of London, was a fresh departure from the sad events that pass for wrestling contests in Britain's windswept holiday camps.

There were pyrotechnics, lasers, and female models lavishly draped over the wrestlers. Thundering music announced their entry, contributing to a glamorous atmosphere which is commonplace for wrestling events in the States. It was a far cry from the days when a promoter put a few ads in the paper and waited for the crowds to turn up.

Most important, says Paul Martin, one of the partners in UWA, is that television cameras return to the British wrestling scene in February. TV is the oxygen of which the sport has been so deprived for a decade. The next show at London's Crystal Palace will be shown on the cable channel Live TV, and a deal for further promotions is under negotiation with Sky TV.

Paul Martin confesses that he knows little about wrestling. But given the sport's parlous state he, probably rightly, regards that particular lack of knowledge as a strength.

Martin comes from the world of concert promotion. He knows exactly what is needed to attract the new audience that wrestling needs - the young men and women who like to attend live gigs.

Additionally his business partner, Dan Berlinski, an American TV executive who spent four years working with the US World Wrestling Federation, is highly regarded and is also reckoned to know what turns an audience on to wrestling.

The deal is that the revival will use an American-style brash presentation. British wrestling will be distinctive because it will combine this

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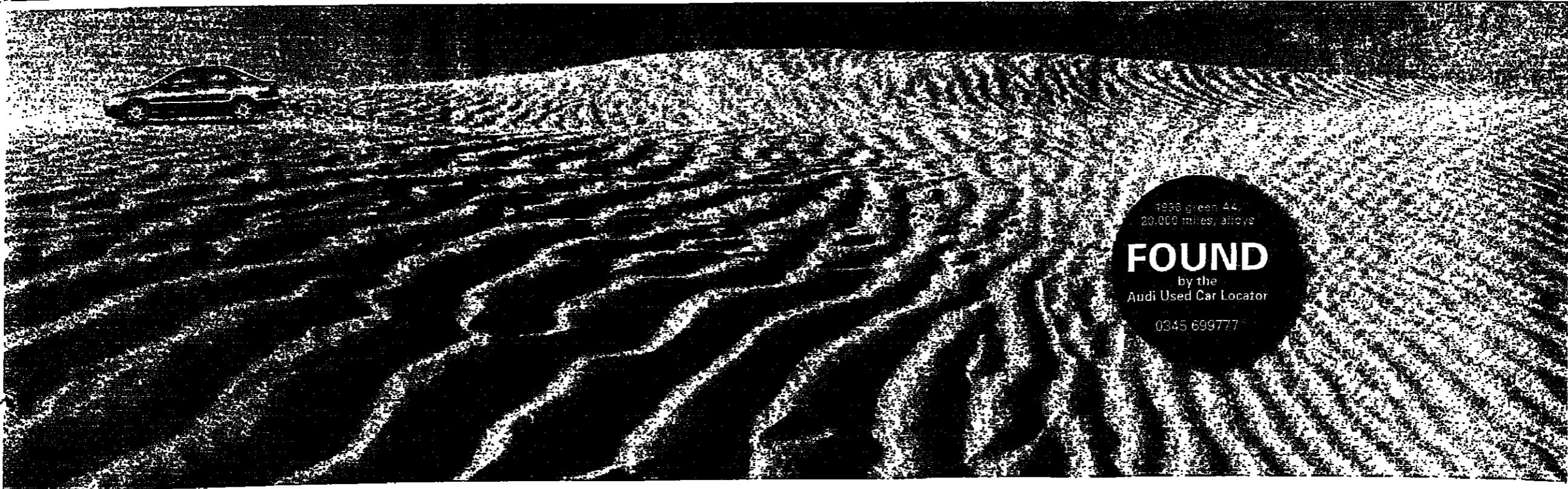
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## Labour scandals

Sir: Peter Mandelson's resignation is a refreshing development for a Labour Party which is bedevilled and politically corrupted by the myth of modernisation.

Regardless of what degree of financial or political impropriety occurred, or of what further revelations on ensue, the common perception is that it is unlikely that many of Mandelson's Hartlepool Labour-voting constituents could obtain a loan of £340,000; hence his reticence at the time.

However, the main issue is that this transaction and previous scandals such as the Formula One affair all epitomise how the New Labour "election-winning" concept is nothing but a capitulation to the demands of the captains of industry and finance, and to free-market fundamentalism. It reveals that the small clique of business and image conscious New Labour executives who administer the show are unrepresentative of Labour voters and the Labour movement as a whole. As long as they remain at the helm, "misjudgements" like this will be just as endemic in this government as they were in the last.

Tony Blair has given the assurance that although his key modernising ideology has gone, Mandelson's spectre will remain in New Labour policy. Hopefully, though, his departure along with worsening economic problems may start a momentum to reassess Labour on the left of the political spectrum, thus ending this wretched bi-partisan consensus politics which inhibits real arguments and policy alternatives.

NICK VINEHILL  
Snettisham, Norfolk

Sir: I am still waiting for someone to explain what Peter Mandelson has actually done wrong (save any possible irregularities in his mortgage application).

The only possible problem with the Robinson loan is an alleged potential conflict of interest. The DTI Permanent Secretary sought to insulate his Secretary of State from the Robinson inquiry on the grounds that he was a fellow minister. So there is already deemed to be a conflict of interest where fellow ministers are concerned.

There is meant to be. These people are in the same party. They are close friends (or at least meant to be). They are colleagues on the same side in the total war that constitutes adversarial political life. There is open loyalty between fellow ministers which makes impartiality not only improbable but impossible. It is not expected to be otherwise. They dine in each other's homes, go on holiday together. We should be amazed if they did not lend each other money from time to time, as well.

Had the minister borrowed money from anyone other than a fellow minister (or a member of his own family) then the need to declare it would be understandable. As it is, we would not be in the least enlightened by disclosure of loans between senior politicians of the same party. To think otherwise would be naive.

R FOULK  
Oxford

Sir: To comply with the convention for naming political scandals, should not the Mandelson affair be called Nottinghillgate?

ALEXANDER KLEANTHOUS  
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire

## Rail disasters

Sir: While Richard Branson navigated his way through a crisis in the ether above China, his passengers on the 21.30 from Euston to Wolverhampton were also trying to make their way home.

We were heavily delayed outside Bletchley because of a fire and brake failure, but the Virgin train assured us that buses and taxis would be waiting at Milton Keynes to take us home.

We arrived at Milton Keynes at about 2am. It was freezing, and no buses were in sight. The 300 passengers from the train were left to fight with each other and



Panto Season No 3: Underneath the auditorium of the Northcott Theatre in Exeter, Bow Belle the fairy (Amanda Horlock) takes a break during the first dress rehearsal of 'Dick Whittington'. John Voss

drunken night-clubbers for taxis. Our taxi driver said his firm would be charging Virgin approximately £200 for the return journey to Wolverhampton. I estimate that the taxi bill alone will cost £15,000 to £20,000, a sum which will only escalate with refunds and demands for compensation.

While Branson amuses himself by bringing Phineas Fogg to life, the thousands of people who regularly have to travel by train in Britain suffer the harsh reality of his management of our railways. Will the Government take heed - allowing the music man to take over our railways has been a disaster.

Dr PATRICIA MINES  
Aberystwyth

Sir: Your Outlook column of 16 December ("Short-changed on Railtrack sale") criticised the National Audit Office report on the privatisation of Railtrack for suggesting that it might have been possible to sell shares in the company in stages rather than all at once. Yet the report demonstrates that this could have been possible.

Top investors in the company confirmed that they had no fundamental objection to participating in a partial share sale. Railtrack shares were clearly attractive to institutions in that they bid for 10 times as many as were available. And where sales have been done in stages, final proceeds have nearly always been higher: in 1991 when National Power and PowerGen were floated ahead of a General Election, and in the face of political opposition, the department was advised not to sell in stages but did so because it could not be sure of getting full value from the initial price.

Ultimately, the shares were sold in two tranches, at an additional benefit of £2.3bn to the taxpayer.

GABRIELLE COHEN  
National Audit Office  
London SW1

Sir: Travel by train is longer possible for anyone who has to arrive by a definite time. Over the

Christmas period travel by rail has been impossible. Close the whole lot, declare a national void day and then start again under completely new management with no compensation. Identify every last Tory involved in privatisation, surcharge them, then imprison them when they cannot pay.

IAN CAMPBELL  
Borth, Dyfed

## After Saddam

Sir: David Aaronovitch ("Unfortunately, there really was no alternative to the bombing", 22 December) and I A Shapiro (letter, 22 December) say that there is no alternative to bombing Iraq. This is not true. The alternative is to remove Saddam and his regime once and for ever.

The US and Britain should have spent 10 per cent of the bombing cost on Iraqi opposition groups to encourage them to unite to help overthrow Saddam and establish a democratic government.

Bombing Iraq will not harm Saddam, it will only bring misery to the Iraqi people. Saddam will rebuild his arms supplies and his military power, and will continue to do so for years to come. This will also result in more bombings and additional suffering for the Iraqi

people. By this bombing, have we really achieved anything other than the slaughter of innocent Iraqi lives? The only way to remove the weapons of mass destruction is to remove Saddam completely, and this can only be achieved by helping the Iraqi opposition.

Lifting sanctions is an essential part of the help, because hungry people can not fight a brutal regime.

Dr ABDUL-KHALIQ HUSSEIN  
Morpeth, Northumberland

Sir: When Tony Blair and Bill Clinton talk of encouraging a new regime in Iraq, most people probably assume this means democracy. This may not be the case.

After the 1991 Gulf conflict, former US Defence Secretary James Schlesinger indicated that the US did not disagree with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who did not consider democracy appropriate for Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia is a deeply repressive country.

The only fully fledged democracy in the region is Israel, hardly an example Arab states would look to. Democracy itself threatens the existence of all the other regimes in the Middle East. If democracy is appropriate for Iraq, why is it not also appropriate for Saudi Arabia.

or for Algeria, where it would have resulted in a fundamentalist Islamic government.

If not democracy then what? The governments need to define their positions. Would the British public support an alternative regime which was not a democracy?

DAVID COCKBURN  
Taunton, Somerset

Sir: George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, speaking about the arrival in the Gulf next month of the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* said: "It is a big signal: we are not going away." You report that the "floating fortress" can mount air and land attacks, and carries up to 24 aircraft and a crew of 1,200 ("Blair sends carrier to the Gulf", 21 December).

And George Orwell said, in 1984: "In a physical sense war involves very small numbers of people, mostly highly trained specialists, and causes comparatively few casualties. The fighting, when there is any, takes place on the vague frontiers whereabout the average man can only guess at, or round the Floating Fortresses which guard strategic spots on the sea-lanes.

"The essential act of war is

destruction, not necessarily of human lives, but the products of human labour. War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of the sea, materials, which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable. A Floating Fortress, for example, has locked up in it the labour that would build several hundred cargo ships. Ultimately it is scrapped as obsolete, never having brought any material benefit to anybody, and with further enormous labours another Floating Fortress is built.

In principle the war effort is always so planned as to eat up any surplus that might exist after meeting the bare needs of the population." Could Mr Blair have been warning us about Mr Blair?

WILLIAM F LONG  
Loughton, Essex

## Lesson for lords

Sir: At our peril we ignore the implications of shabby leaders in the USA mentioned by Gavin Esler ("Cruise missiles won't stop the dangers facing US democracy", 19 December). Their President, their Congress and their Senate, now involved in an unseemly constitutional wrangle, are elected. They are also open to a freedom of information culture in their prurient press. Those in the UK who want an entirely elected House of Lords should reflect on that.

There are many experienced, responsible, wise citizens who will decline to stand for election to our second chamber. They will not be ambitious for public status. Their lives may well be blameless but they and their families will not wish to enter on an election process that would lead to total invasion of their privacy by a "wolf pack" from our snide and scurrilous media. The price of service for some of the people we most need could well be too high. We would have nobody but ourselves to blame.

E A SERPELL  
Norwich

## Giant Haystacks is dead

Continued from page 1  
razzmatazz with the type of skills normally seen only in Japan. So, forget Big Daddy and think of the likes of Naseem Hamed dominating the new wrestling world. Ross Hutchinson, of the wrestling fanzine, *Slacker Punch*, thinks a revival is just around the corner. "If people like Paul Martin keep their promises and stick with quality, then it's going to happen. This time, the audience has to feel that it is seeing the real thing. The trouble with the Giant Haystacks era was that if you market something as a joke then no-one will take it seriously."

Phil Powers is another of the would-be stars. Aged 24, with short dark hair, he is superbly fit and good-looking, billed as a favourite with young women and their mums. Like many of the upcoming stars he is based in the south-east, whereas old-style wrestlers like Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks were more often northerners. Powers is convinced that the new style of British wrestling, more athletic, more aggressive, with less of a *Carry On* image, needs the new, glitz presentation if it is to take off. "If the greasy spoon was selling the finest caviar," he says, "it would not be appreciated in the same way as it is in a fine restaurant."

The trouble, of course, with engineering changes in fashion is that the future is guess work. For those awaiting a breakthrough, sticking with the current wrestling scene is an act of faith. At some events you can be lucky to clear £5 or £10 for a bout. There is, of course, the merchandising on top of that, pictures and T-shirts that people like Big Daddy hawked around long after they had ceased to compete. But the world of holiday camps, where a great deal of wrestling still takes place, is dismal. Especially when you realise that millions of people are watching American wrestling on satellite channels.

Earlier this month, more than 15,000 people were drawn to watch these American TV stars, live, on a rare visit to the London Docklands Arena. Even the hard man of British football, Vinnie Jones, was hired for one bout, playing an enforcer character. It was an event that made the likes of Paul Martin even more sure that a wrestling breakthrough is imminent.

Nevertheless, many people are going to be terribly disappointed if British wrestling throws away this last chance of a revival. Phil Powers works out every day, doing cross-country runs, gymnastics and swimming. But, newly married with two step-children and a baby of his own, he has had to take a job working in a warehouse for a parcel delivery company to get by.

In a couple of years, Phil Powers could be a household name, and rich - or he may still be a nobody. "I would have given up but for the UWA," he confesses. "Now I'm going to give wrestling two more years," he says hopefully. "After that, if it doesn't work out, I'm going back to school, or to university and I'm going to get a proper career. If a revival doesn't happen now, then maybe it's time wrestling went the way of Giant Haystacks and Big Daddy and was laid to rest."

"Iron Duke" Lynch is convinced that Phil Powers will get his big break at 31, looking threatening with his blond mohican, shaven at the sides, he has kept the faith through the hard times. He even has to put up his own ring for some events. Unable to make a full-time living from boxing, he makes ends meet playing villains and thugs as a TV extra.

Despite all of this, a man who just said farewell to Giant Haystacks is full of hope. "You can look at Britain, and the lack of televised British matches, and say wrestling is dead here. And then you see how well the sport is doing in America, thanks to being on the box and you say to yourself, 'That can work here, too'."

## The goalkeeper's fear of the genetically modified pig

IN THESE last two days of the year I want to take your mind off all the bad news of 1998 by directing it to all the bad news of 1999. Yes, it's Old Miles' Almanack time again, as we gaze gloomily into the crystal ball and see the major events of the coming year...

January As Project New Labour falters, with the departure of chief architect Peter Mandelson, rumours abound of a new movement within Government ranks called Project Old Labour.

New Year's Honour List announced: people getting knight-hoods all say "It's a wonderful surprise and shock honour", even though they've known about it for months. Only real surprise in List? Sir Peter Mandelson.

Scientists grow a human hand on a pig.

As President Bill Clinton commences his impeachment trial, he tries to divert attention by bombing Baghdad again.

Richard Branson announces plans for new attempt to circle world in balloon. He will take off in 1999 and complete the trip in 2000, thus becoming the first person to take two centuries to go round the world.

A new miracle sex aid is launched on the American market, called Niagara. It has the opposite effect to that of Viagra: it removes sexual desire from men and gives them the urge to help with the washing up. Sales are moderate to begin with.

Rain, floods and wind. M4 under water. Global warming blamed.

February Project Old Labour gains strength. Robin Cook and John Prescott emerge as leaders. Their claim is that New Labour wins elections but Old Labour runs governments.

Second human hand is grown on a pig. Scientists say the idea is to train Percy the pig as goalkeeper.

Cornish Tourist Board announces there are now no hotel bedrooms left in Cornwall for solar energy in August and pleads with tourists to go elsewhere.

Sales of Niagara, the sexual depressant, start to boom. It turns out that many American women are buying it secretly to put in husbands' food and drink.

Ferocious snow, ice and frost in Britain. East Anglia splits off from Britain and floats away to sea. Global cooling blamed.

IN BRIEF

history. In what sense can anyone in the last 1,000 years have been "British" before the Union of 1707? Shakespeare was a great English writer, who wrote about "Britain" only twice, in King Lear and Cymbeline. He would have found the idea that he was "British" absurd.

ALAN MACCOLL  
St Andrews, Fife

Sir: I was dismayed to read that, at 29, I will soon be too old to appreciate popular culture

and music, as the tracks chosen as "anthems of the year" by Radio 1 listeners are unlikely to mean anything to "anyone over 30" ("Massive Attack sees off old guard", 23 December). I needn't have worried. Reading on, I was relieved to discover that most of those who made the list were about my age (Oasis, Radiohead, Nirvana), while some were positively vintage (REM and Madonna). So I can delay that trip to Littlewoods for my elated jeans for a few years.

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Congresswoman involved in his impeachment trial. Angry he denies it and drops a few bombs on Libya. Blair declares himself right behind Clinton.

Richard Branson announces that when his balloon goes round the world from century to century, he will be dressed as Mr Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*.

Frank Sinatra comes back from the dead for surprise concert tour.

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## A search for a hero that helps us to define ourselves

THE TODAY programme's poll for "person of the millennium" seems over-optimistic: how can 1,000 years of human endeavour possibly be condensed into a single name, however stellar? And how can one limit that search to inhabitants of the British Isles?

But the poll is not as ridiculous as that first reaction assumes: one can understand how it has captured the public imagination as more than a diverting parlour game. As we approach the millennium we will come increasingly to consider who and what we are. Searching for a single representative of our achievements is a part of this process. The millennium celebrations will mean nothing if they do not give us the opportunity to redefine ourselves.

British heroes will inevitably resonate more than those from other shores, however important their achievements. Many of those voting have preferred Winston Churchill for this reason. There is no doubt that he stood out as a brave leader in the perilous late summer of 1940: he saved Britain from an ignoble "peace" with Germany. But is he really the hero for a whole millennium?

Britain has had other saviours. It is partly because his deeds are comparatively recent that we so lionise Churchill. Fewer now remember Queen Elizabeth I's diplomacy, which brought England relatively unscathed through an era of internecine religious war, and defied imperial Spain with England's puny resources.

Remembering her highlights the shortage of women among the candidates. Elizabeth herself is still the first woman in the list, unjustifiably standing rather alone in the field of politics. The feminists of the early part of this century strove to effect the greatest political upheaval since the establishment of parliamentary sovereignty itself. It was they who finally secured the principle that all mentally able adults should be entitled to vote, an ideal that civil rights movements the world over were to mobilise.

The Pankhurst sisters and their suffragette campaign played a key role in securing political rights for British women. Mary Wollstonecraft's writings served as an inspiration for a generation of radical women. Such campaigners should have attracted more votes.

We should also consider those from beyond our borders, if only to provide a sense of perspective. The great Mogul Emperor Akbar conquered much of the known world, and attempted to unite his conquests under one ecumenical religion. More recently, Gandhi and Mandela have brought succour to oppressed peoples. Britons should remember how lucky they are: they have secured their liberties without requiring such charismatic leadership.

Gutenberg gave birth to the modern media by inventing the moving typeface. Galileo, by insisting that Earth was one planet among many, altered man's sense of place



## MAN OF THE MILLENNIUM

in the physical universe. Martin Luther forced the medieval Church to re-consider its secular purpose. He did not intend to, but laid the groundwork for the rise of rational and worldly inquiry. After such men, nothing – and nothing in Britain – would be the same again. Their names are instructive of the rise of northern Europe as opposed to the Mediterranean and Arab world which had dominated the first millennium, shaped by Jesus, Constantine and Muhammad.

These names also demonstrate how Japan and China, ancient civilisations forged on Confucian thinking, have been isolated and in eclipse for much of this millennium, losing their head-start over Western civilisations.

Shakespeare's presence in the list is a warning not to focus on politicians, scientists and philosophers. The joy still imparted by the music of Mozart, the plays of Chekhov or the novels of Proust loom large for many. But there is nothing wrong with settling on a figure from public rather than artistic life: civic duty needs every

encouragement in an age deeply sceptical about politics.

If we are to accept the Radio 4 rules, we can narrow the field to three candidates, whose thought was so profound as to alter the entire intellectual world. Charles Darwin, whose work was scientific, but steeped into religious, philosophical and political discourse too. Adam Smith, a Scot in a list failing to reflect their vital contribution to British history, established modern economics as a discipline, claimed as inspiration by economists as different as Marx to Milton Friedman.

The man who combines all that we are looking for is often overlooked. His name is Benjamin Franklin. As a scientist, he tamed lightning: the lightning conductor was his brainchild, allowing man to build unafraid of the elements. Thunder and lightning had belonged to God: now they belonged to man. Technological advance since Franklin's time, from computers to space travel, has relied on the electricity he harnessed.

His confidence was remarkable. He became one of the

most fervent of Americans once the British connection was irretrievable. As a letter-writer his erudition is legendary. The first of the "natural men" whose bourgeois mores were to come to dominate the globe, he declined to wear a wig while ambassador in Paris. He was self-made, a printer and publisher, the first of a new breed.

He was a master of the modern political art of compromise, striving to avoid the breach with the mother country. He conceived the compromise between the rights of states and the popular vote, and the two-chamber Congress containing both a Senate and House of Representatives, that made the US possible.

Franklin replaced religious absolutes with what was practical, an American injunction that has since become world orthodoxy. And by happy coincidence, he was born a loyal colonist – a Briton through and through. The next millennium will probably uncover as its hero a woman born in Lagos, São Paulo, or Nanking. But it is Franklin we humbly submit as person of this millennium.

## Don't blame the spin-doctor – blame his boss, Mr Brown



### ANNE MC ELVOY

Charlie Whelan is just the most public symbol of the undigested tension between Blair and his Chancellor

As connoisseurs of feuds will tell you, this is the most potent weapon by far. When I heard that Mr Brown had called Mr Mandelson five times to tell him how sorry he was for his trouble and that Mr Mandelson had been very grateful, I prayed for both their souls.

It is often said that Mr Blair and Mr Brown have a close working relationship and that rumours of a rift are therefore unfounded. But the real story of the two men is far more toruous, complex and destructive than outright liking or not liking.

They are both architects of New Labour, but their views differ profoundly on why a reformed party is necessary and how its evolution will proceed. The Brownites believe in the Labour Party as a cultural entity and a continuum with the past. They celebrate the memory of the late

John Smith, who was a decent and kindly man, but no political mould-breaker. Ask a disciple of Mr Brown's whether Smith would have won the 1997 election if he had lived and they will reply without hesitation that he would have done so and made an excellent Prime Minister. They would have preferred to see a traditional product of the Labour party in Number 10 than the confident outsider there today.

Natural-born Blairites feel differently. Their fierce loyalty to Tony stems from a visceral belief that neither Mr Smith nor Mr Brown could have constructed a political force with such overwhelming appeal to the middle-classes and driven the Conservative party to the margins of relevance. This theory that Mr Blair is somewhat exceptional irks Mr Brown – the more so since the Chancellor has the more classical political intellect.

Yet it is Mr Blair who has the keenest instinct for power and more innate understanding of what the country's hopes and fears are. I do not know whether the Chancellor will ever come to terms with this uncomfortable fact of life. A lot of his operations – the cultivation of Mr Robinson, the deployment of Mr Robinson's wealth and the creation of closely-knit court around the Treasury – suggest that he cannot resist squirming away favours and political debts for the day when he can bid once again to lead the Labour Party.

Harbouring this dream is not wrong in itself. Allowing it to contaminate his dealings with close colleagues is. Mr Brown does not respect – or even recognise – the distinction. The problem for those who wish to loosen Mr Brown's clenched grip on old resentments is that most of the Labour Party, in the country and in Parliament, and the vast majority of the Cabinet consider him to be a decent man, driven to the edge of mania by the disappointment he suffered in the leadership race. There is no appetite for a show-down between Mr Blair and Mr Brown which would end in the humiliation – or even the removal – of the Chancellor. The Prime Minister knows that it would undermine his appeal and authority if they are seen to be too hard on Gordon.

For all the appearance of being a ruthless, lean fighting force, New Labour is an emotionally supercharged and rather vulnerable group of people, unable to stop scratching at old scars. It has its own sentimentalists with their banners and slogans to offer. Mr Blair stands aloof of this, but knows that it matters and that the illusion of warmth and friendship must be maintained at the top of the party, however viciously reality bites.

So Charlie Whelan has become the lightning conductor, diverting the rage and resentment that should more properly fall on Mr Brown. The reason the spin-doctor will probably not be to blame is because he was the author of the leak. He may well not have been. Nor is it because he exceeded his master's brief. It is because he fulfilled it too well. The sacrifice of Charlie is intended to end the tribal massacres of the last week. When he is gone, the *casus belli* will fester on.

What way is this to start the New Year?

**Cold, homeless and alone**

Hundreds of young people, from across the UK, will come to us over the next few weeks – the coldest of the winter. Christmas – a time of 'family togetherness' – is also when many young people are thrown out of home. Without immediate help, homelessness can soon become a way of life – and cause of death.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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## MONITOR

### ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Australian comment on the Sydney-Hobart yacht race tragedy

Cruising Yacht Club should change the rules. *The Age*

EVEN FOR those thousands of landlubbers left standing and

ing is special. Despite the introduction of sophisticated gadgetry it remains fascinatingly, frighteningly elemental. Wind. Water. Human strength and skill. And, yes, courage.

Whatever happens – worse, whoever may die – almost all those who survive will resume the perennial struggle between sailor and sea. As those involved in the race explain, lives are not unnecessarily endangered, but there will always be risks. And, for so

long as there are waves and winds, there will always be men and women willing to run those risks.

*Sydney Morning Herald*

THE IMAGE of Bruce Guy's abandoned yacht will haunt this race forever. The two who died (the skipper, whose heart gave out; Phil Skeggs, drowned after the boat capsized) had to be left on board as their crewmates were rescued.

*The Australian*

RIGHT  
OF REPLYHOWARD  
DAVIES

The secretary general of the British Air Transport Association responds to reports that airline safety will be affected by the millennium bug

THERE IS a lot of conjecture concerning the impact of the coming of the year 2000 on computer systems which support essential services. There can, however, be no doubt that the year 2000 will happen, and airlines must be ready to meet the challenge.

Modern aircraft and ground support services such as air traffic control systems, reservation and baggage handling systems, are heavily dependent on computer support for their operations. Airlines have been aware that there is a potential for some problems with these systems, and there is a shared responsibility with suppliers to ensure that these are addressed and resolved where necessary. Indeed, some airlines commenced some initial work on this as long as three years ago.

In addition, the worldwide study already being undertaken by the International Air Transport Association in order to determine readiness of airport infrastructure, is an example of collective international co-operation.

So where does this leave the travelling public? UK airlines working with others, including government departments, are well aware of the possible implications of the "millennium bug" and are working on solutions to resolve difficulties which may arise. Some airlines have already indicated that they will not be flying on the eve, and into the early hours, of the millennium.

The arrival of the year 2000 may give rise to some disruption to normal services, but premature actions – such as the cross-party committee's list of "unsafe" airlines and airports – unnecessarily confuse the issue.

Airlines are committed to the safety of passengers and crew, and the travelling public can be assured that airlines will evaluate all the options before deciding exactly what course of action to take.

At present we are working on the premise that worldwide operations will continue as normal, but the decision as to whether to continue to operate, or indeed restrict, operations to certain destinations will be taken at the appropriate time as further evidence is gained and the picture becomes clearer.

Ultimately, individual airlines, taking into account all the factors at play, will make their own decision as to what they will do to ensure the safety of passengers in the light of the millennium bug.

The biography claims that rape



KEN  
LIVINGSTONE  
*The fall-out from Tony Blair's election as leader may be with us for a generation or two yet*

AS YOU might have guessed, the phone lines have been busy between Labour MPs over Christmas as we analysed the latest casualties from the enduring bitterness of the Labour leadership contest of 1994. People outside politics must probably think it's all a bit sick to have people still settling scores over events almost half a decade old. People in politics seem to have exceptionally long memories for every snub and slight, and there's no greater snub than being denied the leadership of a political party that you believed was rightfully yours.

The general consensus amongst colleagues I spoke to was that the recent debt-settling has been so damaging to the Government as a whole, that everyone may now draw a line under the events of the past. I fear my colleagues are allowing their wishes to cloud their critical faculties. My clearest lesson in how long people can hold a grudge dates back to 1971 when, as a newly elected Lambeth councillor, I sat next to Minnie Kidd, an old time right-winger from Clapham Labour Party. I can no longer remember what minor position was the subject of

contention but I was amazed to see that Minnie Kidd was voting for the left wing candidate against an equally old right-winger who was also from Clapham Labour Party. When I challenged her on her remarkable bit of cross voting she replied with hard determination: "He didn't vote for me to go to Labour Party conference in 1935!" If you're still settling scores over who didn't go to

Labour Party conference 36 years on then I suspect the fall-out from Tony Blair's election as Labour leader may be with us for a generation or two yet.

For me the most appalling aspect of this whole affair is the amount of energy that has been put into party in-fighting to the neglect of the real duty of getting macro economic policy right. When I compare the amount of effort that must have gone into the events before Christmas with the inadequacy that underlies the Treasury pre-Budget report I get quite angry.

The pre-Budget report claims that the economy will grow by between 1 to 1.5 per cent based on an increase in personal and household consumption of between 1.75-2.25 per cent in 1999. The report presumes that the economic slow-down will not lead to an increase in the level of unemployment sufficient to put downward pressure on the growth of real wages. Whilst this may be optimistic, the Government can always affect individual income via tax changes and social transfers so in principle this target could be achieved. The real error in the Budget

forecast is in the area the Government cannot control, such as trade, and will not control – investment. Brown's report predicts that fixed investment will rise from between 1.75-2.25 per cent next year. This is just rubbish. It simply is not credible to suggest that fixed investment will grow almost twice as rapidly as GDP (gross domestic product) as it is one of the clearest features of the business cycle that fluctuations in investment are greater than those in GDP. Fixed investment invariably rises much faster than GDP during the upswing of the business cycle and falls more rapidly during the downswing. As we are clearly in the downswing of the business cycle, fixed investment will rise even less than GDP in the coming year. In fact, the figures had already turned downwards by the second quarter of 1998 – declining by 1.4 per cent compared with the first quarter.

If Gordon Brown's advisors are unaware of the basic relationship between investment and GDP they are even less well informed on the question of the impact of trade on Britain. Gordon's report claimed that the worsening of Britain's trade

risk is on the downside. It is more likely that fixed investment will fall and that net trade will deteriorate more rapidly than Gordon expects. If this is the case then the economy will slip into recession. But if there is a more rapid than expected recovery in Asia and Japan these figures would improve, but equally a devaluation in China or Brazil, or a collapse on Wall Street, would dramatically worsen these figures.

Declining investment will literally undermine our welfare-to-work programme and even the optimistic scenario of zero growth could mean the loss of up to 2,000 seats on Labour councils in May if the downswing reaches its low point before the local elections. We are handing our opponents for the Welsh and Scottish elections a dagger aimed at our heartlands.

My prediction for 1999 is that on the morning of Friday, 7 May defeated Labour candidates all over Britain will be colourfully expressing the view that a bit more effort should have gone into getting the British economy right, and a little less into pursuing the feuds of leadership battles past.

## Forget the old feuds and save the economy

## Can immoral artists produce great works? Discuss (with examples)



DAVID  
LISTER  
*Curling up with a good book is not the same thing as curling up with the author*

IT'S A traumatic business being a female student in Edinburgh these days. Two days ago a bust of Arthur Koestler at Edinburgh University – where his bequest of £500,000 set up a chair in parapsychology – was removed from public display for "security reasons" after female students reported "feeling uneasy under its gaze".

Great novelists and philosophers can have that effect on young people approaching exams. But in this case it was more a glint in the sculptor's eye. Koestler has fallen victim to the curse of biography. His private life is damned in a recent book. Thus his works and literary reputation must be damned too.

We have tended to take a lenient view of great artists indulging in sexual activity. But a new rash of revelations have moved on from sex to sexual politics. And here the issue is not so clean cut.

Where Sir Richard Burton's wife, for years damned as a wet towel to her husband, is reconstituted as his saviour in a new joint biography just out, a television documentary to come out later this month does the opposite for Clara Schumann. Once portrayed as her husband's guardian angel, the director claims she destroyed his best work and left him alone in his asylum at the end.

Once biography moves into the bedroom, who is safe? What if a great artist was guilty of sexual harassment? What if he were a rapist?

The last is particularly pertinent.

A biography of Koestler the supposedly great humanitarian and champion of civil liberties in his fiction, exposes him as a serial rapist. Jill Craigie, the novelist wife of Michael Foot, confirms how Koestler several decades ago abused her hospitality, hurled her to the floor in her own home, and raped her.

The biography claims that rape

music produced. Terry Eagleton, the Oxford, post-structuralist academic, is one who believes the text is all and despairs of "the English mania for biography".

It is a British weakness, he says, that we seem less interested in ideas than in the sexual habits of those who had them. "The narratives we relish are not fictions, but the real-life stories of fiction-makers."

The female students of Edinburgh will have to avert their eyes from the newly suspect gazes of the following: George Orwell, we recently learned, shopped communists to the intelligence services. Shakespeare, to the bizarre outrage of some feminists, left his wife the home's second-best bed in his will. The much loved but adulterous composer, Janacek, was a stinker to his missus, her newly published diaries reveal: Einstein's theory of relativity did not include being true to the relatives. He not only had an affair, but it was with a Russian spy. So that should create some much needed space on the bookshelves and CD racks. Gets rid of a few city centre statues too. And the BBC can expect a demo by militant feminists outside Broadcasting House if the Today programme makes Shakespeare its man of the millennium.

Despite the presumptuous theories now current about how he treated his wife, the great thing about Shakespeare is that he never gave an interview, appeared on a chat show, wrote an autobiography or even a programme note. We have to judge his plays on their merits.

The massive irony in the literary revaluation following revelations about the author (or bust removal as it might come to be known) is that we only read a literary biography in the first place because we have been impressed by a book and want to know more about its author. To

reject the virtues we first noted in the book because we discover that the author was a less than perfect human being may have moral worth; it certainly has no aesthetic or academic worth. No one would suddenly find a much-loved building ugly because of a negative biography of the architect. A work of literature or a piece of music are no less worthy of objective judgement.

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Unfortunately for Gordon's predictions the decline of the value of the pound has been too slow due to the upswing of the business cycle and falls more rapidly during the downswing. As we are clearly in the downswing of the business cycle, fixed investment will rise even less than GDP in the coming year. In fact, the figures had already turned downwards by the second quarter of 1998 – declining by 1.4 per cent compared with the first quarter.

Taking all these factors, along with a sharper deceleration in world GDP, it is clear that Gordon's predictions for GDP are too optimistic for both investment and trade. Even if we make the optimistic assumption that fixed investment is merely flat in 1999 and that the deterioration of net trade is 1 per cent of GDP, then this gives GDP growth for next year of zero. But the

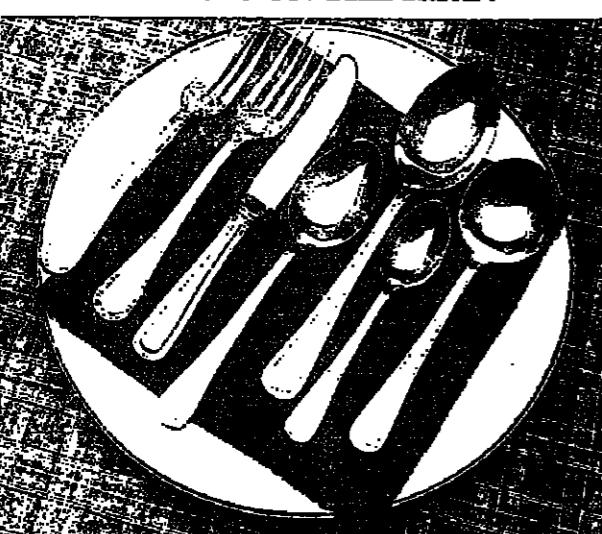
cause the latest biography of him reveals that, into his sixties, he never travelled without his teddy bear.

Artistic creations must be used and judged in their own vacuum, free from their creators' weaknesses, moral failings, even criminal acts. It is not that long a road from removing busts to burning books.

Perhaps the students of Edinburgh should replace the bust and put underneath it the words: "Curling up with a good book is not the same as curling up with the author". What matters is the work produced. Great artists don't have to be nice. Very often they were, and are, cussed, selfish and hell to live with.

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## PANDORA

PANDORA'S READERS are responding in massive numbers to Tuesday's plea to help Tony Blair choose his New Year's resolution. Predictably, suggestions range from the inspirationally sober to the entertainingly absurd.

For example, Gordon Cann, a retired teacher from Bournemouth, rang to propose that the Prime Minister "resolve for one year to abolish spin doctors,

three-line whips and restore the public's faith in the democratic process. In other words, take a risk." In a rhetorical vein, Mustafa Kundu, a student from Yorkshire, wants Tony to resolve "to stop using the words 'new', 'you know' and 'like' in every statement".

Playwright Brian Behan, brother of the late Brendan and a frequent correspondent with Pandora, struck a grim note with his proposal: "Blair should hang himself, after turning himself in as a war criminal first. I would stretch his neck myself."

On a rather more whimsical note, Iris Jones-Morrison, a London marketing executive, suggests that Tony should "make a resolution to bring Roy Hattersley back into the Cabinet".

More fluff balls from the rich tapestry of Pandora's readership tomorrow.

"I'm quite delighted that the production is on. Obviously I wouldn't want to get involved with designing a new production or making another film of it. You have to move on."

"COMPLETE AND utter rubbish," was the reaction of the Duchess

of York's press spokeswoman, Kate Waddington, when Pandora rang her yesterday to check out an outlandish piece of gossip published by a New York tabloid on Tuesday.

Its claim was that Fergie had spent \$10,000 (just over £6,000) on servants, champagne and food while celebrating Christmas with her sister Jane and family – then forwarded the bill to Prince Andrew and jumped on a plane to go skiing in Italy with Count Gaddo della Gherardesca.

"She had a normal Christmas lunch with her sister's family at Wood Farm. Their father joined them for the day," Waddington insisted. "There's no question of sending the bill anywhere else. She's certainly not going skiing in the Dolomites, because she's flying to New York to spend New Year with Weight Watchers."

DON'T GET too excited when you see John Travolta's (pictured) name at the top of the billings for the new World War II epic, *The Thin Red Line*, directed by Terrence Malick, and based on the James Jones novel. "I'm only in it for five minutes," Travolta said recently. "If you get up for popcorn, I'm out of there."

150 من المصل

# David Manners

DAPPER AND handsome, David Manners was a serviceable leading man whose screen career was confined entirely to the Thirties, during which he was in great demand. He made 37 films between 1930 and 1936, and played romantic lead to such stars as Barbara Stanwyck, Katharine Hepburn, Kay Francis and Constance Bennett.

Though he was excellent as the hero-worshipping young officer in *Journey's End* and the blind man who falls in love with a faith-healer in *The Miracle Woman*, it is for his roles in three classic horror films - *Dracula* with Bela Lugosi, *The Mummy* with Boris Karloff, and *The Black Cat* with both Lugosi and Karloff - that he is best remembered, and a few years ago he commented on the interest being shown in him by movie magazines and historians. "Most of today's fans are 14-year-old worshippers of the horror films - my only claim to movie fame."

Claiming descent from William the Conqueror, Manners was born Rauff de Ryther Duan Acklom in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1902 (some sources state 1900 or 1905). The family tree of his mother, Lillian Manners, included Lady Diana Cooper and the Duke of Rutland, while the Ackloms included the writers Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, W.H. Horner and Morley Akrom - Manners himself would take up writing later in his career.

He was educated at Collegiate Grammar School in Windsor, Ontario, and earned a degree in forestry at the University of Toronto, where he also studied acting under Bertram Forsyth, who ran the Hart House Theatre, where Manners made his stage debut in the title role of Euripides' *Hippolytus*. After graduation, his jobs included foreman of a lumber camp in Canada and salesman in a London antique shop. When his parents moved to the United States, Manners decided to try his luck in the New York theatre.

In 1924 he joined Basil Sydney's touring company; his roles included Bezano the bareback rider in *He Who Gets Slapped* and Sorelve's father in *Peer Gynt*. He made his Broadway debut in *Dancing Mothers* (1924), a comedy starring Helen

Hayes. The production's stage manager was George Cukor, who years later would direct Manners in the film *A Bill of Divorcement* (1932).

The actor's first film role was a prestigious one. James Whale had directed both the London and New York productions of R.C. Sheriff's powerful anti-war play *Journey's End*, and was signed to direct the film version in 1930. He was having difficulty casting the pivotal role of the young Second Lieutenant Raleigh who irritates the seasoned Captain with his optimism and loyalty, and was thinking of sending to England for Maurice Evans when he was introduced to Manners, who successfully tested for the role.

With his clean-cut looks and perfect diction, Manners was quickly offered more roles, and starred opposite the former silent star Alice Joyce in *He Knew Women* (1930) and Alice White in *Sweet Mammie* (1930)

and Loretta Young in *Kismet* (1930), in which he effectively played the young Caliph in love with a beggar's daughter. He was vamped by Myrna Loy in *The Truth About Youth* (1930) and in *The Right to Love* (1931) was Ruth Chatterton's secret lover.

The role of John Harker, the nominal lead in *Dracula* (1931), was offered to Manners after several actors, including Lew Ayres, had



Manners with Katharine Hepburn in *A Bill of Divorcement*, 1932

front of a full-length mirror while he intoned with sepulchral emphasis, "I am Dracula... I am Dracula!" Asked about the film's director Tod Browning, Manners said, "The only directing I saw was done by Kurt Freund, the cinematographer."

Manners gave one of his most sensitive performances as a burnout flying ace in William Dieterle's underrated *The Last Flight* (1931)

and was fine as the shy blind man who conveys his love for Barbara Stanwyck through a ventriloquist's dummy in Frank Capra's *The Miracle Woman* (1931), though the film was banned in the UK. George Cukor cast him as Katharine Hepburn's fiancé, rejected by her after she discovers there is insanity in her family, in *A Bill of Divorcement* (1932), and Manners was to remain part of Cukor's circle of close friends until his death in 1983.

He was not too effective as the romantic lead in *The Mummy* (1932), a superior horror film dominated by Karloff, but was praised for his lively performance in *The Warrior's Husband* (1933), which he followed with the role of the centurion in the musical *Roman Scandals* (1933).

In *The Black Cat* (1934), considered the finest film of the director Edgar Ulmer, Manners and Jacqueline Wells were newly weds caught in a storm and taking shelter in the gloomy castle of Karloff and Lugosi. Though the film owes little to the Poe original, it is made with subtle expressionism and a dream-like atmosphere that is hauntingly effective.

Manners played the title role in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1935), strangled by Claude Rains on Christmas Eve, and appeared with Katharine Hepburn again in *A Woman Rebels* (1936), after which he retired from acting to concentrate on writing.

He was coaxed back to the theatre 10 years later, starring in Maxwell Anderson's play *Truckline Cafe*. Directed by Elia Kazan and featuring an unknown Marlon Brando, the play ran for 13 performances on Broadway. But in December 1946 Manners scored a great personal success when he took over from Henry Daniell as Lord Windermere in *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Designed

by Cecil Beaton, the play was a hit in New York and toured for a year, after which Manners announced his permanent retirement as an actor.

David Manners had a home in Pacific Palisades, which he shared with a fellow writer, William Mercer, and ran an art gallery. Among his published books were two novels, *Convenient Season* and *Under Running Laughter*, and two philosophical works, *Look Through* and *The Soundless Voice*, the latter described by one critic as "a penetrating book on meditation".

In recent years, rich due to land investments, he lived alone in an ocean-view apartment in Santa Barbara. Married briefly early in his career, he was noted for maintaining a private personal life and refusing to dwell on the past, though he declared fond memories of his Hollywood friendships with Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, George Arliss, Constance Bennett and others. "I tried and true friendship," he said, "that's what this old world needs plenty of."

TOM VALLANCE

Rouff de Ryther Duan Acklom (David Manners), actor; born Halifax, Nova Scotia 30 April 1902; married; died Santa Barbara, California 23 December 1998.

Corbis

## Ernie Perry

FOR SOME of his contemporaries in the House of Commons the abiding memory of Ernie Perry is standing at the entrance to the aye and no lobbies at divisions and with his broad smile coming up afterwards and saying: "I counted you in and I counted you out." Perry was enormously proud of being the first undertaker ever to become a Member of Parliament.

Ernie Perry - no one dreamt of calling him Ernest - was born in London, brought up in London and was thoroughly London. He left school at 14 and went into the textile industry. In the early Thirties, he became unemployed, but for the next 30 years made his way in the insurance industry.

In 1934, aged only 26, he joined the Battersea Borough Council. For the next third of a century, he served as a councillor, becoming Mayor of Battersea in 1955-56 and later an Alderman of the Borough of Wandsworth. He was the very essence of Herbert Morrison's London local government and all that it entailed.

Perry spent formative years during the Second World War as a gunner, becoming a troop sergeant in the Indian Artillery and serving throughout the Far East. For the rest of his life, he was extremely concerned about the conditions of servicemen and developed a lasting and sensitive interest in the working conditions of Asians. This extended to a real understanding of the problem of the immigrant Asian communities which came under Battersea Council's umbrella, and he met them in his work as a Member of Parliament.

In the 1964 general election in Battersea South there was the battle of the two Ernest Ps - Ernest Perry and the sitting Conservative Member Ernest Partridge; the labels were Labour Ernest vs Tory Ernest. Perry won in the small constituency.



The first undertaker MP

by 12,253 votes to 10,615. Since the majority of the Wilson government was only five, later reduced to three, this was an important achievement. It owed a great deal to Perry's own popularity and also the fact that he was seen as a good counterpoint to the intellectual member for Battersea North, Harold Wilson's President of the Board of Trade, the Wykehamist and Oxford don Douglas Jay.

Apart from his sterling work in the whips' office, where he was very popular as London Whip, Perry made a real contribution to the House of Commons as a result of his expertise in the pensions industry, particularly the Policy Holders' Protection Bill of July 1975. He pointed out that it was necessary to differentiate between companies and friendly societies which deal in life insurance or general insurance only - of which over 95 per cent in Britain were stable and solvent - and companies which take over an insurance company and inject another sphere of activity into it, i.e. trying to link insurance with property bonds.

Repeatedly he told the Commons that the home insurance agent would give a person the advice to which he was entitled and which would suit his pocket. It was this kind of good advice in his professional capacity that endeared Perry as a councillor to so many in Battersea.

Behind the home service agent was a battery of unpaid officials who vetted his business. If they thought an agent had sold an industrial life policy when he should have sold an ordinary life policy, they would advise the impending policy holder to take an ordinary life policy. Sixty companies ranging from the Prudential Insurance Company to the Cooperative Insurance Society used to sell insurance on the doorstep. Perry argued that he and his colleagues had made it an honourable and useful profession, and indeed it was.

Ernie Perry was without ambition to be a minister and his purpose in the House of Commons which he served so well was that Labour in office should be a success and create benefit for those who put them there.

TAM DALVELL

Ernest George Perry, insurance agent, undertaker and politician; born London 25 April 1908; MP (Labour) for Battersea South 1964-74, Wandsworth, Battersea South 1974-79; Assistant Government Whip 1968-70, 1974-75; Opposition Whip 1976-78; married 1950 Edna Peris Mankelow (died 1998; one son); died London 28 December 1998.



Pushkin translations

ROBERT POWELL-JONES was one of the most promising of his Oxford generation but also one of the most reckless. He was somebody whom you only had to meet once, on form, to know his exceptional capabilities. While his life was outwardly conventional - leading from a scholarship to Winchester and another (aged 16) to Wadham, where he won academic laurels; then an early, happy marriage and 20 years at the Bar - he was far too independent-minded and Romantic a character to be anything but fundamentally restless.

He was born in 1954. At Winchester he suffered from severe depression and opted to go with his mother to Brazil. Apparently far

from robust (though in fact he boxed well), Powell-Jones threw himself into a succession of hazardous activities, working at a banana plantation near São Paulo, trekking through forests in search of rubber, and then embarking for the Amazon on a small cutter which was destroyed in a storm. This culminated in a three-day sojourn with the rescuers, Indians, hitherto unaccustomed to Europeans; it is likely that Powell-Jones was the only person present to have read *A Handful of Dust*.

After these Conradian experiences, Powell-Jones found difficulty in settling down at Oxford. He was arrested for being drunk and incapable in charge of a bicycle, when

and was fine as the shy blind man who conveys his love for Barbara Stanwyck through a ventriloquist's dummy in Frank Capra's *The Miracle Woman* (1931), though the film was banned in the UK. George Cukor cast him as Katharine Hepburn's fiancé, rejected by her after she discovers there is insanity in her family, in *A Bill of Divorcement* (1932), and Manners was to remain part of Cukor's circle of close friends until his death in 1983.

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Corbis

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

CAREY: Peter M. On 27 December, tragically, following a road accident in Sri Lanka, aged 45. Dearly beloved husband of Anita (née George), loving father of William, Rhiannon, Angharad, Catrin and David and greatly loved son, brother, son-in-law and uncle and friend. Arrangements to be announced in due course. Any correspondence to be addressed c/o MGF, 1a Bolton & Lee, 1 The Savoy, Westminster, London SW1P 3AT.

DEVLIN: Hugh Brendan, CBE, FRCS, on 26 December 1998, husband of Ann, father of Tim, James, Peter and Brendan. Service at Middlebrough, St Mary's RC Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Saturday 2 January at 1pm, followed by private interment. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Butterwick Hospice, Stockton TS19 6ZN.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Arnulf Allen, former Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority; 74; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer; 61; Mr David Bedford, athlete; 49; Professor Sir Roy Calne, surgeon and immunologist; 68; Mr Geraint Davies, controller, BBC Wales; 55; Mr Bo Diddley, singer, composer and guitarist; 70; General Sir David Fraser, former UK representative to Nato; 70; Sir Archibald Hamilton MP; 57; Sir John Houghton, former Chief Executive, the Meteorological Office; 67; Lord Howick of Glendale, a former managing director, Baring Bros; 61; Dame Rosalinde Hurley, microbiologist; 69; Mr Mark Kaplan, violinist; 45; Mr Timothy Mo, writer; 48; The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich; 65; Mr David Prior MP; 44; Mrs Gwendolen Randal, Head, Framlingham College; 48; Sir Albert Robinson, former High Commissioner in the UK for Rhodesia and Nyasaland; 83; Mr Nick Skelton, show jumper; 41; Miss Tracey Ull-

man, actress and comedienne; 39; Mr David G. Wadsworth, Chief Education Officer for Bedfordshire; 54; Sir David Willcocks, former Director, Royal College of Music; 79; Mr Clifford Williams, former associate director, the Royal Shakespeare company; 72.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Joseph Rudyard Kipling, author and poet, 1865. Deaths: Maurice Denton Welch, novelist and artist, 1948. On this day: Karol Wojtyla later to be Pope John Paul II became Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, 1963. Today is the Feast Day of St Anysia, St Anysius, St Egyd and St Sabinus of Spoleto.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guards at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am; band provided by the Welsh Guards.

THE TROUBLE with angels is that they do not easily fit into our worldview. Although it is said that in America more people believe in angels than God, and the New Age movement has now incorporated angels into its pantheon of divine beings, for most of us angels are creatures conjured up once a year to form part of the magic of Christmas: the angel on the top of the Christmas tree, a small girl playing Gabriel in the school Christmas play, hosts of singing angels, looking like choirboys, on Christmas cards. Angels, in short, have been both commercialised and demythologised - we don't believe in them but it's nice to have them around, like mince pies, mistletoe, and Bing Crosby singing and dreaming of a White Christmas.

Christmas has now become an association of images and ideas fixed in nostalgic tableaux of Santa Claus and elves, Jesus, his mother and angels, children sharing presents and happy families. In this mix angels serve the same function as red robins and snowflake lights on the tree, decorations in the hall - they are all backdrop to the serious business of over-eating and drinking.

But in the Bible angels are serious business. The first thing to notice about them, however, is that they rarely appear by name - Michael, Gabriel, and the turncoat Lucifer are exceptions - and we know little about their appearance or haute couture. Michael and Gabriel are not depicted with wings, though the seraphim that shout "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of

His interest in European culture, and in particular the art and architecture of Rome, Florence, Venice and Paris, was passionate; he had limited affection for London and showed a marked reluctance to cross the river. He collected pictures and also commissioned them, notably an ongoing series of portraits of his daughter, Stella, by Matthew Carter.

Though he often seemed happiest with his own company, Powell-Jones revelled in companionship, even encouraged a Dionysian streak in others, though he could at times be an enervating and forbidding presence. Easily irritated by what he perceived as an oafish element in many English men, he was strong-

ly drawn to the company of women and was capable of developing tendresses at speed. An endearing feature was his ability to communicate freely, when he chose, with absolutely anyone.



# Is this justice or revenge?

Poland wants to extradite a Holocaust survivor, now living in Oxford, for the alleged murder of a wartime hero. By Adam LeBor

**T**his is a story about Communism and patriotism; justice and retribution and the historical ghosts that for 50 years lay under the permafrost of the Soviet bloc. Now the ice has melted, these spectres have returned. For globalisation now encompasses not just economies, but past torture and murder. The British process of extradition that is now dealing with General Pinochet may soon be faced with a case from Poland. The protagonists here are two elderly Polish women: one Jewish, one Catholic.

The first is Helena Brus, formerly Wolinska, an elderly British pensioner nudging 80. She lives a quiet life, together with her husband Wlodzimierz Brus, a professor of Russian and fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. But behind Mrs Brus's comfortable retirement lies another, far more brutal past. Decades ago she had another life, in Warsaw during the 1950s – when she worked as a military prosecutor. Her critics accuse her of oiling the wheels of judicial murder. By issuing countless arrest warrants on charges of capital crimes in a totalitarian regime, they say she is as guilty as those who worked the gallows.

The Catholic is Maria Fieldorf-Czarska, daughter of a heroic general in the Polish Home Army, the main wartime resistance movement, who was hanged in February 1953. It was Helena Wolinska, she says, who began the process of pre-determined judicial execution by issuing the arrest warrant for General Fieldorf. Now, over 55 years later, Mrs Fieldorf-Czarska believes she has justice in sight. In a move that echoes the campaign to bring General Pinochet to justice, the Warsaw Military Court has ruled in favour of issuing an arrest warrant for Mrs Brus-Wolinska on charges of illegally extending General Fieldorf's detention. The next step will be for the Polish Justice Ministry to formally request her extradition.

Polish sources say that Britain has indicated it will not obstruct her extradition back to Poland on legal grounds. So the way is clear for another Pinochet-style episode: a clear-cut case of an aged former functionary of a totalitarian regime, apparently with blood on his or her hands, finally called to account for crimes of decades ago.

The Brus case is part of a Europe-wide



Maria Fieldorf-Czarska with a picture of her father, a hero of the Polish national resistance

desire for a reckoning for injustices arising from the war. The governments and corporations that profited so handsomely from the Holocaust, for example, know that denial is no longer adequate. Thus the argument goes, the Right has admitted its sins and made recompense. Now it is the Left's turn and former Communist functionaries such as Helena Brus. The problem in this case is that the circumstances

are more ambiguous. Mrs Brus is a Holocaust survivor who barely escaped the fate of most of her family in the death camps.

She argues that the attempt to extradite her is motivated not by a desire for justice, but rather vengeance and the anti-Semitism that still persists in Poland. In a statement made to the Polish press she said: "The decision of the Warsaw military court concerning my alleged crimes does

not contain a true sentence."

The prospect of an elderly Jewess, a lifelong anti-fascist, being forcibly returned to stand trial in the land of Auschwitz and Treblinka, where most of her family were killed, is troubling. But if elderly Nazis are still called to account for the Holocaust, why should aged Stalists escape retribution?

The early 1950s were times of terror in eastern Europe. Stalin had installed brutal

regimes run mainly by Communist exiles who had spent the war years in Moscow. Stalin understood the value of hatred, and using the principle of "divide and rule" he made sure that many of these officials were Jewish.

Returning to a Europe ravaged by the war and the Holocaust, they unquestioningly followed Moscow's orders. Anyone considered to be a threat to eastern Eu-

rope's new Marxist order was eliminated. Moscow particularly feared Polish Home Army officers, believing that they could reform the nucleus of an underground resistance. Armed resistance against the Soviets continued until 1947.

General August Emil Fieldorf was arrested in November 1952 and put on trial in April 1953, charged with attempting to "use force with the aim of changing the character of the Polish state". Later the accusations changed to that of being a "fascist-Hitlerite criminal". His fate was that of most of his fellow officers who returned to Poland – a brief trial in a kangaroo court, followed by the gallows. At 3.30pm on February 24 1953 the hangman at Warsaw's Mokotow prison looped a rope around his neck. The site of his grave is unknown.

Maria Fieldorf-Czarska was informed of his death three days later, when she visited the General Prosecutor's office, looking for news of her father. None of those involved in his arrest, imprisonment and death could have imagined that their actions would return to haunt them, thanks to the persistence of his daughter and the collapse of an ideology that once ruled half a continent. Now 73, and living in Gdańsk, Mrs Fieldorf-Czarska is a sprightly and hospitable woman. Her small flat is decorated with pictures of General Fieldorf, proud and upright in his Home Army uniform.

It was a letter she wrote in May 1996 to the Warsaw Military Prosecutor asking for the names of those involved in her father's arrest and interrogation, that triggered the legal process for extradition of Helena Brus. "I did this so that justice can be done and that the people who brought my father to his death should be held responsible. Helena Wolinska brought this case on fabricated evidence and my father was unlawfully arrested. She issued the arrest warrant as a military prosecutor and then gave the case to the general prosecutor."

The reply came October 1997, that the Warsaw Military Prosecutor had begun to investigate General Fieldorf's arrest. Most of the others involved are now dead, but Wolinska was traced to Oxford.

"She should confess that she is guilty and that what she did was unlawful. Whether or not she should go to prison is a decision for the courts. But if she confesses and asks for forgiveness, we should forgive her."

## Many happy returns for unwanted presents

Standing in a queue at Marks & Spencer to swap sweaters for socks is as traditional a Christmas pastime as carol-singing. By John Flynn

To the careless observer they look like another bunch of bar-gain-hunters enjoying a day at the sales. Only their slightly crumpled green plastic bags bulging with presents hint at a different purpose. Those do not look like new bags containing fresh purchases. Then you begin to wonder why they're all walking in rather than out of Marks and Spencer early in the morning.

Finally, you realise that you have chanced upon a special breed of shopper. Those for whom the period just after Christmas is a season of many happy returns. Inside those bags are the patterned sweaters,

babydoll negligees and skimpy knickers which seemed so appropriate to the giver, yet appalled loved ones on Christmas morning.

M&S has a famously liberal policy of accepting returns. So liberal indeed that many of those who feel a cash gift is insulting will have popped in just before Christmas, grabbed a few pairs of loud, diamond socks, confident that the money may be discreetly reclaimed at a later date. There is just that little problem of the long queue at the vast M&S refund section. Thank God there is a shop assistant dispensing boiled sweets to keep us good hu-

moured. "Any chance of a gin?" I ask.

Cindy Colfer is here in line at the Oxford Street store, victim of an ill-chosen Christmas jumper. "He got me a size 8," complains Mrs Colfer, 46, from South-east London. So what's the problem? "I'm a 12," she replies through clenched teeth. Well-intentioned, seasonal fatality? But Mrs Colfer is unimpressed: "He just picked it off the rack without looking and thought that would do."

Poor Mr Colfer. He had been trying. He doesn't usually venture out alone to buy clothes for his wife. "He gives us the money and tells us to get something for Mum," pipes up

his daughter, Susan. "But he forgot Mum's birthday this year, so he felt he had to go out on his own and make amends."

For his double error, Mr Colfer did get off more lightly than others. "She says they are too long in the leg," sighs Paul, 37, an accountant from south London. He shows me the black satin trousers he bought for his girlfriend. "I got the size right, 14. But I've been told off for not knowing she's a 30 leg. I thought 31/4 would be OK. They looked fine to me. For a bloke it's all right if trousers go over their shoes. But I'm told women like to show their feet."

Paul has left his girlfriend at home in bed on the bank holiday to arrive as soon as M&S opened. Obviously chastised, he has promised to be back in time to bring her coffee in bed. No, he will not give his full name. "It's bad enough doing this without everyone knowing about it."

Maura, 30, and her husband, Chris, 30, are still arguing about the gold satin underwear he gave her. "I was disappointed," says Chris. "She had told me that those were the ones she wanted and then she changed her mind." Maura mutters that she said no such thing.

This underwear problem keeps

cropping up. Melissa Braiden, 32, from Eastcote in north-west London, is completing the annual ritual of returning a set of bra and knickers from her husband Sean. "I like what he chose," she says. "It's just that he always buys me underwear I've still haven't used last year's lot."

But I do not find a single man returning a lover's present. There is the occasional wife bringing back a shirt that is too large. "He just gave me a look of resignation and said it was too big," confesses Linda Judd.

Disgruntled women far outnumber the men. Perhaps it is because women are such good present givers, such great assessors of size. Or maybe we wisely keep quiet.

For some the return trip is just the inevitable and amusing result of poor communications. "Every year my husband's sister gives him extra large vests which don't fit him and she gives me black tights which I don't like," declares Maud Jones, 56. Why don't they explain, I wonder?

"Oh we wouldn't want to offend her."

Tanya Nouri, 29, is clutching a thong from her mother. Husband, Michael, 38, is as usual, returning his ma-in-laws traditional gift of socks. "These days, mum even wraps up the receipt," she says.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Legal Notices

No. 6963 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL

INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 3 December 1998 filed with the High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-mentioned company from £278,590,000 down to £100,000.00. The Preferred Shares of £1 each and 1,015,200,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each to £75,000,000 divided into 1,015,200,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each in the cancellation of 1,960,000,000 Cumulative Preference Shares of 25p each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on 13 January 1999.

ANY CREDITOR or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for confirmation of the said reduction should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A COPY of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 19th day of December 1998

NORTON ROSE

Kempson House

Cambridge Street

London EC2A 7AN

(Ref: CCR/16/1998/7)

Solicitors for the Company

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the register of members of the said Company will be closed in respect of the Cumulative Preference Shares of 25p each from 6/10pm on Thursday, 14 January 1999.

Registered Office:

Exchange House, Primrose Street,

London EC2A 2NY

By order of the Board

Foreign and Colonial Investment

Trust PLC

Secretary

6/10pm on Thursday, 14 January 1999.

For the Board

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Foreign and Colonial Investment

# Size isn't everything

Neither the National nor the RSC had a great 1998. In fact, nearly all this year's theatrical highlights came from more unexpected venues. David Benedict pulls out some plums, while Dominic Cavendish clears a path through the fringe



Clockwise from above: Kevin Spacey in 'The Iceman Cometh'; David Bradley in 'Phèdre'; Una Stubbs in 'Twelfth Night', and Phyllis Nagy, writer of 'Never Land'



You don't have to be Mystic Meg to predict that Kevin Spacey will bag the Olivier award for his completely magnetic performance as Hickey in *The Iceman Cometh*. Of course, he was on to a winner from the off. Hickey gets the biggest build-up in world drama – for an entire hour the rest of the cast sit around yacking about what a great guy he is and how they can't wait for him to arrive.

But Spacey did far more than cruise in on star status. He rode the wave of anticipation like a champion surfer and for the next three hours, with a host of meticulous performances surrounding him, the audience was glued.

Hayley Carmichael confirmed her promise from successive productions with her *Told By An Idiot* company giving a shimmering jewel of a performance as the yearning upper-class daughter in *Mr*

*Puntilla and His Man Motti* and almost stealing the show from beneath the noses of Sean Foley and Hamish McColl – aka The Right Size.

Indeed, some of the year's best acting came in overlooked roles. Jessica Turner brought unlooked for depth and delicious comic flair to *What You Get and What You Expect* at the Lyric Hammersmith: very sharp and very funny.

Quite rightly, everyone applauded the Almeida's bravery in taking Racine into the shark-infested West End, but most people were so busy being awed by Jonathan Kent's beautiful productions and their starry leading players that few recognised the excellence of David Bradley. His riveting performance as Theramene in *Phèdre* was a masterpiece in relaxed understatement.

He barely raised his voice; he just stood his ground and let the richly wrought images of Ted Hughes's translation spring to terrifying life.

There was acting of similar depth

in the play of the year, *Never Land* at the Royal Court. Phyllis Nagy's devastatingly compassionate portrait of a French family hurtling towards disaster made huge demands of its actors who progressed from farcical high comedy to a heart-breaking conclusion as the family made peace with itself. Michelle Fairley shone with self-possession. Anthony Calf brought rare humanity to his role, and almost a year after seeing it, the tragic grandeur of Sheila Gish still burns bright. Watching her battling between the consoling fictions of self-delusion and a true understanding of love in the passionate final act was simply overwhelming. Steven Pimlott's production – returning next year – was also graced by an extraordinarily effective (and almost completely unnoticed) design by Mark Thompson which echoed the atmospheres and moods of Nagy's text.

There was equally bold writing in the widely misinterpreted *The Play* by

*About the Baby*. More than any other play this year, this suffered from "reviewers' baggage" whereby preconceptions coloured the responses to the piece. Several commentators clearly expected Edward Albee to serve up a play in the same style as *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and then reprimanded him for not doing so. Either that, or they criticised the subject matter – the moral responsibilities behind having children – and not the play itself. Pardon me, that's not criticism, it's censorship. Howard Davies's scrupulous production featured beautifully calibrated performances all round with a frankly hilarious Frances de la Tour matching blissful comic timing with truthful resolve to a remarkable degree.

The surprise of the year also came courtesy of the *Never Land* team, Pimlott and Thompson, who spun straw into gold with *Dr Dolittle*. With its drab score and bald book, no one would be foolish

enough to claim that this was the musical of the year, but even cynics were stunned by its beguiling warmth and larkiness, the direct result of Pimlott and Thompson's invention and execution.

The other outstanding collaboration was between director James Macdonald and designer Jeremy Herbert on Sarah Kane's now notorious *Cleansed*. Their pristine realisation of Kane's disturbing images was an unequivocal and necessary testament to the power of live theatre. Furthermore, although it proved to be box-office poison, *Cleansed* was a timely example of a theatre staging the unique vision of its playwrights in the teeth of commercial pressure. Thanks to its unheralded Young People's Theatre, the Court also wound up with the debut of the year in Christopher Shinn's astonishingly tender and elliptical state-of-the-nation play *Four*. Shinn, 23, isn't merely promising: he's the real thing.

*Cheek by Jowl* went out on a high with a stunning *Much Ado About Nothing*, the only time I have ever seen all the play's elements fused into a glorious whole. Along the way, director Declan Donnellan made a star out of Matthew McFadyean whose hilarious and touching Benedict was only matched by his Charles Surface in Donnellan's superb *The School for Scandal*, the finest RSC show in a frighteningly long time. Then, just as the rest of the Shakespearean year looked like a washout, Michael Grandage directed *Twelfth Night* at Sheffield Crucible. Brimming with unforced humour, this carefully cast, fleet, fresh and superbly spoken production was done on four weeks rehearsal putting to shame the disaster which was Sean Mathias's *Antony and Cleopatra*, which had twice Grandage's rehearsal period and budget. The National almost made up for that with Trevor Nunn and Susan Stroman's veritable ex-

humation of *Oklahoma!* Anthony Ward's eye-widening design played no small part in its success. Yet surprisingly there was competition for the coveted award for Best Covered Wagons on the London Stage from the ludicrously enjoyable *Yee-Haw!*, 1998's only "camp, cross-dressing cowboy musical", which had a sell-out run at the Rosemary Branch. "Sing and dance/For no particular reason", whooped the chorus. Vessire, they share my Best Musical and Funniest Night of the Year awards with the frankly insane film noir pastiche *The Betrayal of Nora Blak* at the tiny Jermyn Street Theatre. The opening number – courtesy of the movie *Laura* – was entitled "Amnesia", but to coin a phrase, I remember it well.

There is, however, a worrying theme to this. Theatre is alive, but rarely in the expected places. Almost none of these highlights happened within the large-scale subsidised companies. Time to take stock.

## Go on, live dangerously...



The tirelessly physical Frantic Assembly performing 'Flesh'

Geraint Lewis

INEVITABLY LOOKING back, there are regrets. Shows I wish I'd seen. Shows would gladly have triggered a security alert to extricate myself from, oh, for a mobile phone during *Eyam*, the Bridewell musical set during the Plague. There were more misses than hits – even though the selection of productions covered was weighted in favour of the most promising. Hardly surprising, you might think, if the term "fringe theatre" signifies anything, it is a peripheral space where artists have the prerogative to fail as well as the opportunity to prove themselves. Judging by what was on offer this 12-month, though, much of the failure stems from over-cautiousness. The spirit of risk-taking and innovation is scarcely to be seen.

If you wanted memorable new plays in '98, you could look further afield than the Bush or the Royal Court, but you had to keep your eyes peeled. Katie Hims's *The Breakfast Soldiers* made a good early impression at the rejuvenated Finsbury. This sprightly comedy captured, with a mischievous hint of pastiche, the daffy awkwardness of two upright and uptight sisters sharing a house in the wake of the First World War, a co-dependence poignantly soured by the passage of time. Rosalind Phillips' and Verity Hewlett's performances, minutely relaying the neuroses caused by unacted-upon desire, remain, for me, the year's most welcome surprises.

David Lewis's first full-length work, *Sperm Wars* – a frequently hilarious, though overly farcical, eavesdrop on the mutual recriminations of a childless couple – gave the Orange Tree's excellent new ensemble something to get their teeth into apart from solid rivals. Nick Green's *Her Alabaster Skin*, first seen at the grossly underrated White Bear in Kennington, boasted some startlingly idiosyncratic brutality inflicted on a lone male: os-

tensibly an ornate gangster turn, the piece slid into a mordant vision of a society whose key players are pathologically incapable of tolerating the existence of stand-alone individuals.

There were other slices of life that left a powerful aftertaste. Stephen Clark's *Tuke-Away* – presented by Munari at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith – was a touching portrait of a family-run Chinese take-away facing an uncertain future. Jack Shepherd's *Half Moon*, presented at the Southwark Playhouse, was a gripping fly-on-the-wall study of raddled, bickering bohemians in a Fitzrovia watering hole during the Falklands War. Both com-

bined a vibrant authenticity with an elegiac sense of eras at an end. Both reaffirmed the value of intimate theatre spaces; neither could be said to point the way forward, though.

To see moulds being broken and recast, the place to go was the BAC, that, after four years under the aegis of Tom Morris, has become something of a phenomenon. Readers may scratch their heads in wonder at the frequency with which the acronym of the Battersea Arts Centre appears but with 300 companies passing through this former town hall in 1998, the building now fully deserves its tag as "the national theatre of the fringe". By sim-

ply not charging rental, the BAC has opened the doors to a whole generation of performers and there's been a stampede of talent.

In the recent past, it has provided a launch-pad for the now universally championed Improbable Theatre and The Right Size, both of which vaulted into the mainstream with the deliciously nasty *Shockheaded Peter* and the buoyant *Mr Puntilla and His Man Motti*. This year, there was some typically astute programming which brought established artists back into the fold, and highlighted the strengths of unknowns. The *In the Dark* season this summer – which forced the au-

dience to supply the visuals with their imagination – may have been partly borne out of a need to keep the costs of this underfunded centre down, but the likes of *Theatre de Complicite* and *Improbable* leapt at the opportunity to get involved. The season was so popular with performers and punters, it returns next year.

The even greater success of the BAC's contribution to The British Festival of Visual Theatre in October – 70 per cent of seats sold for the 100-odd performances, most of which fitted by too fast to get critical coverage – suggests that once a venue has secured the public's trust, a microclimate of innovation develops.

Two undoubted highlights were Michael Wynne's *Sell Out*, a bruisingly accurate description of the fickle loyalties of twentysomethings performed by the tirelessly physical Frantic Assembly, and *Tunnel Vision*, a tragicomic puppet-show from Fauly Optic that portrays the whole world as a cross between a concentration camp and a theme park with hi-tech and low-tech wizardry.

By this time next year, you'll probably be sick of hearing about these two companies. The risky ventures of 1998 become the safe bets of 1999, while the plodding revivals and wannabe West End musicals are simply forgotten. A critic can take very little credit for this process, beyond helping to point the public in the right direction. If you haven't yet done so, make it your resolution to beat a path to Battersea.

DC

*Take-Away* tours to Liverpool, Brighton and Manchester in April 1999; *Sell Out* is touring the UK to April (booking: 01792 714881); *Sperm Wars* is at the Orange Tree, Richmond (0181-940 3633), 1-13 February; *Tunnel Vision*, ICA, London (0171-930 3647), 11-13 January

Less is more: Get a fashion make-under for the New Year

PAGE 8



"The performances are first rate... an enthralling production of an indisputably great play" *Day Magazine*

"This is Pinter played not only with a bruising sense of pain, but with a rare feeling for a paradise lost" *Guardian*

Lyceum: Tonight, Fri 1 Jan, 7.30pm; Tomorrow at 2.30pm & 7.30pm; Saturday at 2.30pm & 7.30pm; Sunday at 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Royal National Theatre: Box Office 0171-401 5000; [www.rnt-online.org](http://www.rnt-online.org)

AND ON TOUR Theatre Royal Bath 27-30 Jan 01225 448844

# A make-over? That's so over

It's a chic, subtle way to get a new look without spending too much at the beauty counter. Meet the make-under. By Melanie Rickey



**The 50s**  
Janet Jones, 53, surveyor for Thames Water (before, above), after, wearing black shirt £105, by Ghost, from Diverse, 294 Upper Street London N1 (0171-359 8877). Ghost enquiries 0181-960 3121. Compact base 03, £15; loose powder C7, £12.50; brow-colour beige, £8; purple eyeshadow 530 pearl, £8; white brow-highlighter 100, £8; brown/black mascara, £10; nude 850 matt lip colour, £10; nude lip liner, £8



**The 30s**  
Diana Pepper, 36, bride-to-be (before, above), after, wearing black long-sleeved top, £155, by Ghost, from Diverse, as before. Compact base 3, £14.50; loose powder 2, £12.50; blonde brow-colour, £8; white brow-highlighter 100, £8; purple 500 matt eyeshadow as upper lid liner, £8; blue 630 matt eyeliner, £7; brown/black mascara, £10; beige 80 pearl cheek colour, £10; nude 850 matt lip colour, £10



**The teens**  
Laura Garrett, model, 16 (before, above), after, wearing white shirt, £28, Gap. Concealer duo 1&2, £8; beige 80 matt eyeshadow, £8; brown mascara, £10; neutral 110 lipgloss, £9.50. All make-up by Ruby & Millie at selected Boots. Photographer: Trish Morrissey. Make-up: Ruby Hammer assisted by Christine Gaunt. Nails: Sue Flouri. The Untouchables Hair: Craig Mason. Toni & Guy Fashion Assistant: Amy Jones



**The 20s**  
Helen Georgiou, PA, 23 (before, above, after, wearing black polo-neck jumper, £30, from Gap, branches nationwide, enquiries 0800 427 789. Base 05, £14.50; beige 800 matt eyeshadow, £8; yellow 230 pearl eyecolour, £8; Brown 940 wet eyeliner across upper lashes, £8; black/brown mascara, £10; purple 530s lipstick, £10; gold 20 lipgloss, £8.50; beige 800 matt cheeks, £10)



**E**veryone has witnessed the power of the make-over. If not in a magazine or newspaper, then most definitely on just-axed morning television show *Style Challenge*. This, and other daytime shows, have popularised the notion that most people need a team of experts to "make-over" their dull looks into those worthy of a second glance.

This idea may work well on TV, but for real life, forget it. In fact for 1999, as we say goodbye to *Style Challenge*, it is time to proclaim the make-over as, well, over. The "make-over" is here.

The first known use of the term "make-over" came from an off-beat make-up column in New York-based fashion magazine *Jane*, which launched in 1997. Each month a Jane journalist takes to the streets to find a woman who literally piles it on - like Doran Green in *Birds of a Feather*, but worse. Their examples are hilarious and have become cult reading: imagine a bad perm with growing-out highlights combined with goth/cheerleader makeup. Lip-liner is brown, lipstick is frosted pink. Blusher

looks like a bruise, eyebrows are drawn in, eyeshadow has been applied with a trowel. What's really scary is that this woman thinks she looks great.

The make-under process involves scraping the make-up off, and then reapplying it in a similar, but more chic, way. The hair is also cut to enhance the facial features. The results are always fabulous, but subtle, and suitable for real life.

Fast forward to October. The new Selfridges beauty room opens to the public, and one of its glossy parlours is inhabited by Ruby & Millie, the new range developed by Ruby Hammer, top make-up artist and Millie Kendall, (make-up addict).

Guess what Ruby & Millie were promoting? Yep, the concept for the make-over had arrived in the UK.

Ruby Hammer had been nurturing the make-under idea for two years. "We had the idea when we began to develop our range in 1996," she says. "We were at one of those seminars which predicts future trends, when the man giving a talk mentioned make-unders. Me and Millie just looked at each other and thought 'spooky'."

When their Boots-backed range finally launched in June this year, with its perspex and silver user-friendly packaging (designed by jeweller Sheila Teague from duo Wright & Teague), affordable prices (nothing is more than £15) and approachable colours, Ruby & Millie were firm believers in the make-under.

But before we begin our own make-unders, Ruby reminds us that "make-over is not a make-up look".

"It is about refining and improving, or toning down. It is about using less to achieve more. I'm not asking people to buy ten products when two will do. I am a consumer as well as a businesswoman."

All of the women who agreed to take part were looking to change their day-to-day look. And all with the exception of Laura Garrett who, at 16, doesn't even need make-up, wanted to become sleeker, chic-er version of their former selves. At our request, they all arrived wearing their usual everyday make-up.

Ruby started by discussing the way make-up is applied. Laura Garrett had her complexion evened out with a few dabs of concealer, but no foundation was used. "She's got lovely skin. Why use it if it's not needed?" said Hammer. Her lips were enhanced with gloss, and her eyes were tightly lined. That was it.

Diana Pepper was keen to get some advice for her forthcoming wedding day in February. "At my age, it's time to re-evaluate my regime," she said. Diana's usual make-up is black mascara - "I never use eyeliner because my eyes are too deep-set" - brownish lipstick, Clarins liquid foundation and loose powder on the T-zone.

Ruby immediately advised her to use a green cream to tone down her flushed cheeks. "Just lightly dab it," she said, "if you can see it on the skin, you've used too much. Once that's done, you can do pretty much anything, and it's time you wore some eyeliner."

"She has incredible aquamarine eyes," continued Ruby as she set to work on Diana with navy eyeliner across the upper lids, and a lighter blue on the lower lid. A highlighter stick was also used to bring out the contour of the brow, and the eyebrows themselves were shaded. Mascara was

applied last. Lips and cheeks were left subtle, leaving the eyes transformed, and the hair was softened into a neater shape.

Diana was over the moon. "I absolutely love it. I would never have thought my eyes could look this good. Ruby was so quick and a bit bossy, but that's good. All I need to buy now is some eyeliner, shadow, and highlighter, and I can probably do it myself for my wedding."

Helen Georgiou needed a make-up lesson and a few slight changes. "I've never even thought about how to apply make-up before," she said, "I just put it on." Ruby removed her everyday stick of Body Shop foundation, Oil of Ulay mascara, brown eyeshadow and orangey lipstick from Estee Lauder, and again went to work on the eyes. "She doesn't do anything with them," said Ruby. "I gave the eyes a flash of gold across the lids, some light shadow, and a wet eyeliner to brush across upper and lower lids. She's got a lovely warm skin tone because she's half Greek, and she hides it under foundation. Why? I warmed it up with a light blush, and offset it with a purplish-brown lipstick and gold lipgloss."

It wasn't a mind-boggling transformation, but Helen was nonetheless very pleased, and surprised. "I can't believe how little make-up it took. I feel like I'm hardly wearing any, yet I look totally different."

Janet Jones admitted that she slaps her make-up on at 5.30am every morning. "I have to be at work at 7am, and I try to retain my femininity. I last changed my make-up nine years ago. Since then, I've lost weight in my face, and developed rosier cheeks." Ruby applied green cream to even out the skin tone, but not too much - "her natural flush means we don't need blusher" - and softened the skin tone with a warm base, loose powder, and used the miracle highlighting stick on the upper cheeks and brow. Highlighting stick is the best new make-up product around, she says.

She finished off by working around the eyes, to bring out their green colour, and then lined them softly. "My main objective with Janet was to work with her skin tone, and bring out her eyes. Everything is subtle. That is what a make-under is about. Everyone here could go out on the street, and look good but not overdone."

## 1999: It's fashion, Jim, and almost as we predicted it

We are about to reach the imagined era, and fashions, of Buck Rogers, Barbarella and Flash Gordon. Trendsetters born in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s recall for Melanie Rickey their childhood visions. And they weren't too wide of the mark

### Max Clifford, publicist

"As a youngster in the 1950s I read a comic called *The Eagle* (with) Dan Dare who wore what now looks like a tracksuit. He was a spaceman, zooming around the universe saving people, and I thought his costume looked comfortable and easy. I was nine or ten then and all I wanted to do was play football. As a kid I wanted to get things on as quickly as possible and get out into the streets. Now I live in tracksuits when I'm not in the office, as I play a lot of sport."

Reflected trends: sportswear as everyday attire

Labels: Nike, Adidas

**Elspeth Gibson, fashion designer**  
"I thought that by 1999 everyone would look the same and be dressed in all-in-one metallic outfits - very futuristic, very glamorous, and very hi-tech. What comes to mind is the scene in

*Barbarella* when Jane Fonda floats around in a silver/white space suit."

Reflected trends: 1970s glam rock revival (in silver); cyber punk, androgynous hi-tech fabrics

Labels: Ad Hoc, Versace, Issey Miyake, Buffalo, Prada Sport

**Andrew Groves, fashion designer**  
"I grew up with images of white catsuits in my head - very clinical, like something out of 2001, and very hi-tech with people living on pills. I think *Bladerunner* got it right with... the future having no connection to the past. I imagined we'd all be a Space Family Robinson, but it's never going to happen. Similarly I always thought that, by 1999, men and women would all look the same, very unisex and blonde, for some reason. It's never going to be like that either. Clothes are an identity, not a uniform."

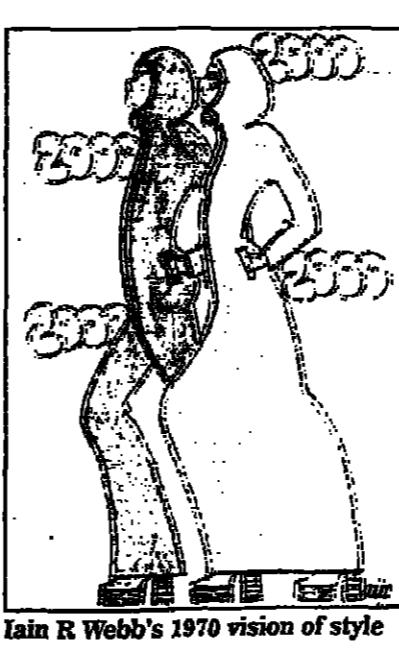
Reflected trends: androgynous, hi-tech

sportswear, hi-tech fabrics, minimalism

Labels: Courreges, Prada Sport, Jil Sander

**Iain R Webb, fashion director Elle**  
"In my second year at the John Gaunt Grammar School in Wiltshire (circa 1970, when I was 12) there was a competition to design a school uniform for the year 2000. I designed a unisex uniform (right): all-in-one hooded zip-front outfit worn with matching platform boots. At the time I worshipped The Angels on Gerry Anderson's *Captain Scarlet*, and was a big fan of *Space 1999*. Our blazers were bottle green, so I chose two different shades of green (lime for the girls and pea for the boys). Looking back it's remarkable how skinny and sexless the drawings are - the boy has no obvious genitalia - but then I guess I was young and sex was still a mystery to me."

Reflected trends: androgynous, hi-tech



fabrics, luxury sportswear, utility, minimalism

Labels: Prada Sport, Jil Sander, Louis Vuitton, Dirk Bikkembergs, YMC, Helmut Lang

**Harriet Quick, editor, Frank**  
"I was convinced as a kid that 1999, if the bomb had not dropped, would see me turn 31, married with at least two children (wrong and wrong again), living in an igloo-shaped abode with Jimmy Savile do-everything chairs, eating freeze-dried food, travelling by triveller and wearing pale-coloured clothes with rainbow stripes and zips. The latter, inspired by the clones in *Logan's Run*, has not transpired - though I figure the new Prada Sport collection comes pretty close."

Reflected trends: sportswear as everyday attire, utility, hippy, hi-tech

Labels: Prada Sport, Helmut Lang, Jil Sander

**Nicolas Ghesquiere, head designer, Balenciaga**

"From about age seven or eight I have been very attached to science fiction movies. Films such as *Star Wars*, *Barbarella*, *Bladerunner* and *Alien* - and the outfits that go with them - have represented for me what I have imagined for future fashion. Important fashion elements are protection from a hostile apocalyptic world, and items inspired by the children's toy, Playmobil, in which the 'clothing' is made of plastic and is removable. I also loved Princess Leia's hair in *Star Wars*. The mix between romance, innocence, and violence is intriguing. My favourite idea is in *Barbarella*, when (you can) wear anything just by clicking the fingers. Maybe one day?"

Reflected trends: none so far

Labels: Balenciaga

RESEARCH: SUSANNAH CONWAY

# The great escape

A change in the law means less of your bequest need end up with the tax man. By John Whiting

The landed gentry have, over the past few decades, faded into genteel – and sometimes poverty-stricken – obscurity. But shire toffs were given cause to celebrate earlier this month, after the Inland Revenue suffered a rare defeat in the House of Lords, in a case which could rescue hundreds of large estates from crippling inheritance tax duties.

The Lords found in favour of taxpayers in an argument over a disputed inheritance tax bill that could have cost the estate of Lady Ingram, a wealthy landowner, hundreds of thousands of pounds. The implications of the Ingram judgement are clearly important – scores of similarly-affected landowners paid into a fighting fund to help pay for the legal battle waged by their descendants and their lawyers.

While few of us have huge estates, the Lords' findings on inheritance tax address a common problem



While few of us have huge estates, the Lords' findings on inheritance tax address a common problem

gave away the house but stayed living there, she would be GROB'd unless she paid full market rent for the property – probably impractical. And few would want to give their house away without the definite right to stay on, leaving it up to their offspring to have the final say – children don't always do what you want!

The idea of splitting the asset does start a train of thought. Shares can be split into an income stream (the dividends) and a capital asset: could the same thing work with a property? This was in effect what was done with Hurst Lodge. Lady Ingram transferred the property to her so-

licitor who promptly granted her a 20-year lease to live in the property rent-free. The freehold was held in trust for her family.

The House of Lords has held that this route works to avoid the GROB rule. Lady Ingram had, in effect, created two assets where one was before, passed on one of those assets, and gained an IHT advantage.

Sadly Lady Ingram is no longer with us to celebrate her triumph. She died in 1987. But she has left a legacy of value to others beyond her family. Anyone in a similar position to her – probably a widow, living in a large house that is the major part of their

assets, with no spouse to leave their wealth to – may be able to solve an IHT problem. (Anything left to the spouse is IHT-free.) The door has opened to show a way of passing on the property and reducing the IHT burden. But this is not something to do without professional advice. Inevitably, anything to do with property needs proper legal documentation – so, as the TV shows put it, please don't try this one by yourself at home. However, if home does represent a large potential IHT burden – perhaps the majority of a £400,000-plus estate, which would imply IHT of at least £70,000 – it might well be worth

exploring the route and incurring some professional fees.

There will be risks. Getting the paperwork right is crucial to minimise the dangers of the plan not working. And it must be borne in mind that this might be a door that is only briefly open – it may well be one that is slammed shut again by the Chancellor in next year's Budget, or even earlier if he sees a flurry of Lady Ingram imitators exploiting her legacy.

John Whiting is a tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, chartered accountants.

## Taxing time for Europe

More vital problems need to be solved. By Ian Barlow and David Evans

It is not often that tax policies of other countries form the lead story in the UK media. But a sense of proportion needs to be brought to the furore over EU tax harmonisation that has dominated the run-up to this weekend's introduction of the euro.

First of all, what does harmonisation mean? People seem to assume that equalising the corporate tax rates means companies would pay the same tax in each state. This is a gross oversimplification, as the tax bases – the underlying system of calculating the profits on which companies pay their tax – would remain very different in each country.

To date there has been minimal progress in harmonising the direct tax systems of the EU's member states. In the early Nineties, the European Commission brought forward a number of directives designed to facilitate the operation of the single market and reduce double taxation – that is where companies end up paying tax twice on the same profit. Just two of these proposed directives were approved – the parent/subsidiary directive that reduces taxation on dividends, and the mergers directive which facilitates cross-border reorganisations, disposals and acquisitions. Other proposals for directives were dropped as it was not possible to reach agreement between all the member states.

More recently, as member states focus on protecting their tax revenues, the Commission has found a more receptive audience to its exhortations to co-ordinate tax policy. France and Germany, in particular, have been concerned to prevent companies establishing themselves in tax havens and reducing the tax payable at home. EU Tax Commissioner Mario Monti – who has taken a much more cautious approach to the whole subject than the German and French governments – has said: "If you create a tax haven



Dawn Primarolo of the EU working party UPPA

for a few people, you condemn the rest to a tax hell." As a result, in December 1997 EU Finance Ministers reached an agreement on a package of measures intended to combat harmful tax competition between member states.

The package consisted of these three elements:

• A code of conduct for business taxation.

• A proposal for a directive on interest and royalties.

• A proposal for a directive on the taxation of interest income from savings – the savings directive.

The first, the code of conduct is perhaps the most interesting element of the package: it is designed to prevent "harmful tax competition" within the EU by encouraging member states to withdraw special tax regimes. These aim to attract businesses that are internationally mobile without affecting the general rate of business tax in the country. For example, in a country with a headline rate of tax of 40 per cent, a regime that offered a 10 per cent rate of tax

harmful in this context, especially if it applied only to foreign companies or foreign income.

The working party established under the code of conduct – chaired by the UK's own Dawn Primarolo (Financial Secretary at the Treasury, and MP for Bristol South) – has now identified 22 low-tax arrangements for businesses within the EU which might be harmful. Ten of these are reported to be UK provisions, including special measures for the film industry, for ship operators, and for the tax breaks provided by enterprise zones – but this has yet to be confirmed.

The EU savings directive has also been much in the headlines. This proposes that each member state introduce either a minimum 20 per cent withholding tax on payments of interest to individuals in other member states, or a requirement to report such payments to the tax authorities in the member state of the recipient. The UK Government would not favour introducing a with-

holding requirement in domestic legislation, but would probably be happy with a reporting requirement, provided an exemption was introduced for Eurobond interest. Without an exemption, it is feared, there would be very harmful effects on the London Eurobond market, and the Government has stated that, unless adequate protection is introduced, it will veto the proposal. There is no reason to doubt their word.

The code of conduct for business taxation does not go far enough for some. With EMU levelling the playing field in 11 member states, tax will be one of the few remaining areas in which countries can still compete: there is no prohibition in the code of conduct on lowering the national rate of business tax – Ireland has said it will progressively lower its national rate to 12.5 per cent by 2003.

While some view competition as a bad thing, others believe it encourages member states to have disciplined public finances, and provides a last remaining lever in running the economy within the Eurozone. However, given the political tensions, we are bound to see more headlines in the tabloids before long.

But in many ways, the current debate on tax harmonisation misses the point for business – the real concern is how barriers to doing business can be overcome and Europe can be a true single market? It is, for example, the inability to offset losses in one country against the profits in another, and the requirement to determine taxable profits according to the different tax bases in 15 member states that increase tax costs in the single market. These are the issues that the Commission must focus on – the current debate on tax rates will be of little or no help to business.

Ian Barlow is UK head of tax and David Evans is director of international tax at KPMG.

## Power of ten

THE FIXERS:



TIM COCKERILL

Portable returns; not exciting but very steady and reliable."

Ken Ferguson said that the drop in income from these investments would prove a problem after being used to 10 per cent.

"If you want a higher income the only option is to go further up the risk scale. Perhaps you should consider a corporate bond fund, such as the M&G High Yield Bond which has a gross yield of 7.85 per cent or the Aberdeen Fixed Interest Fund which yields 8.5 per cent gross, both of which can go into a PEP. If you cannot PEP them then obviously you are liable to tax, which brings their returns down to that offered by with-profit bonds."

"Is there nothing that pays 10 per cent or more?" asked Ken.

"There is a class of share issued by split investment trusts which benefit from all of the income that the trust generates," began Tim. "These are really quite high-risk geared investments, meaning that they exaggerate market movements in both an upward and downward direction."

"That doesn't sound too attractive," replied Ken. "What about Tessa?"

"Well, they are worth looking at. Although the rates will fluctuate they tend to offer more than a building society, and as it is sensible to keep money in the building society for emergencies it is worth considering putting some of that money in a Tessa. The advantage of the Tessa is that interest is paid tax free."

"If we move slightly up the risk profile, you could consider a with-profit bond, such as the Prudential or Scottish Widows, and these will pay you 5.75 per cent and 6.75 per cent net reversionary bonuses at present. But it's still not as good as you are used to."

"Don't these tie me in for a long time?" enquired Ken.

"To an extent; but you have to realise that they are designed for the longer term – and that has to be at least five years. Historically with-profit bonds have given very com-

mon returns; not exciting but very steady and reliable."

"Correct," said Ken.

After a couple of days to think it over, Ken requested a prudent strategy, and I recommended a diversified selection of investments maximising his tax benefits through Tessas and Corporate Bond PEPs. Like many investors, he has had to lower his expectations of the returns from income investments.

"So my choices are: accept that I'll get a lower income, or increase my risk?"

"Correct," said Ken.

After a couple of days to think it over, Ken requested a prudent strategy, and I recommended a diversified selection of investments maximising his tax benefits through Tessas and Corporate Bond PEPs. Like many investors, he has had to lower his expectations of the returns from income investments.

Tim Cockerill is the managing director at Whitechurch Securities, independent financial advisers (0800 3744131).

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## NEW FILMS

## THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Director: Samirah Makhmalbaf  
Starring: Massouneh Naderi, Zahra Naderi  
Seventeen-year-old Makhmalbaf's precocious débüt re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker. Part documentary, part rites-of-passage fable, *The Apple* is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, *Renoir*.

## ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Director: Tony Scott  
Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman  
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in a tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenalised chase scenes. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

## THE MIGHTY (PG)

Director: Peter Chelsom  
Starring: Sharon Stone, Gillian Anderson  
Peter Chelsom's *The Mighty* is a stolid and rather predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amounts to supporting roles. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

## WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Director: Vincent Ward  
Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra  
Along comes Christmas, and out comes *What Dreams May Come*, an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams simmers as the dead chappie who leaves a cod-impressionist heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceits arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

Xan Brooks

## GENERAL RELEASE

## ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

## BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to *Babe*, knockout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

## THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

## MULAN (U)

This has it all: pro-active heroine; strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

## MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

## THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in this thrilling drama. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

## OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

## THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Disney rehearses its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of twin sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

## THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

## RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with a LA backdrop, jobbing Hollywood director and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

## THE THREE BEST FILMS

## Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

## Antz (PG)

This computer-animated comedy, voiced by a stellar cast, stars Woody Allen as worker ant "Z", who becomes an unlikely opponent

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

ANTHONY QUINN

CINEMA  
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418)  $\oplus$  Baker Street  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 6.10pm  
6.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PRINTON STREET (0870-902 0402)  $\oplus$  Piccadilly Circus  
Elizabeth 1.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm  
The Last Days of Dido 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 9pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-268 4322) (from 1pm)  
Plenty: Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Stunts 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402)  $\oplus$  Leicester Square  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 6.10pm  
6.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Stunts 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403)  $\oplus$  Leicester Square  
Angel Sharks 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm The Ed 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Goddess 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm La Vie Revers des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414)  $\oplus$  Tottenham Court Road  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE (0171-538 8891)  $\oplus$  Barbican The Mighty 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

BARBICON SCREEN (0171-538 8891)  $\oplus$  Sloane Square  
Connais la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742)  $\oplus$  Sloane Square  
Connais la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323)  $\oplus$  Clapham Common  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 6.20pm, 8pm The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm My Name is Joe 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720)  $\oplus$  Green Park  
Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)  
 $\oplus$  Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
Casablanca 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 10.10pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm, 10.45pm The Mighty 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm

CURZON WINEBAR (0171-734 1539)  $\oplus$  Curzon Mayfair  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

DEPT OF CULTURE (0171-727 4043)  $\oplus$  Baker Street  
The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.35pm, 9.30pm La Vie Revers des Anges 4.25pm, 5.45pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772)  $\oplus$  Baker Street  
The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.35pm, 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-930 3520)  $\oplus$  Angel/Highbury  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366)  $\oplus$  Belsize Park  
Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

STAR CINEMA (0171-927 4043)  $\oplus$  Sloane Square  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

STAR CINEMA (0171-927 4043)  $\oplus$  Sloane Square  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

STAR CINEMA (0171-927 4043)  $\oplus$  Sloane Square  
Babes: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

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STAR

## WEDNESDAY RADIO

### RADIO 1

1075-998MHz FM  
7.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott Mills. 1.00 Kevin Greening. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 Giles Peterson. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00-7.00 Clive Warren.

### RADIO 2

(88.902MHz FM)  
6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Mald's Maverick Christmas. 8.00 Mike Harding Review of the Year. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited. 10.30 Bob Harris. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Nicky Home.

### RADIO 3

(90.2-92MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.

### 9.00 Masterworks.

### 10.30 Artist of the Week.

### 11.00 Sound Stories.

### 12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saëns.

### 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

### 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

### 3.50 The Harmonic Series.

### 4.00 Choral Evensong.

### 5.00 A Medieval Christmas.

### 5.30 Music Rooms.

### 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Statin.

### 6.35 Performance on 3.

### 7.45 The Cog and the Tsar. An investigation into the satirical intent behind Belsky's adaptation of Pushkin's tale and Rimsky-Korsakov's further alterations.

### 8.10 The Golden Cockerel, Acts 2 and 3.

### 9.40 Postscript. Kevin Jackson unravels the stories behind classic works of European literature. 3: 'The Poems of Friedrich Holderlin'. In September 1806, Friedrich Holderlin was forcibly removed to a clinic for the insane. Discharged after eight months, he was given only three years to live, though he survived a further 36 living in a tower being cared for by a carpenter. Before his mental breakdown, he had written a series of elegies and hymns that make him one of the finest poets of the romantic age.

Kevin Jackson explores this highly distinctive vision and the way this iconic figure inspired samizdat writers in East Germany.

### PICK OF THE DAY

THE RECIPE for a Manhattan cocktail seems to be three parts greed, two parts history and add a dash of grievance. Manhattan Story (11am R4) is the tale of Robert Edwards, a Welsh naval officer granted Manhattan Island (right) by the Crown in 1770. In 1778 he leased the land for 99 years to the wardens of Trinity Church; but when the lease was up,

the Church kept a firm hold. Since 1921, the descendants of Edwards have been fighting to prove that the land is theirs, and if they win, they stand to gain a cool \$680 billion.

For those of us on smaller budgets, Them and Us (8pm R4) asks whether the power of the supermarkets is a good or a bad thing.

ROBERT HANKS



### 2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets. 3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time Christmas Special.

### 3.30 The Small Ad. (R)

### 3.45 It Didn't Mean a Thing.

### 4.00 NEWS: Case Notes.

### 4.30 Thinking Allowed - the Longer Map.

### 5.00 PM.

### 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

### 6.30 Bookend.

### 7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

### 7.15 Front Row: Francine Stock charts the mysterious art of 90s film-making - pitching the script, hooking a star, raising the cash, finding distribution. And is the concept of a British film now outmoded?

### 7.45 Under One Roof. The second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michelle Henson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dora and Luisa Bradshaw-White (3/5).

### 8.00 NEWS; Them and Us. Diana Madill presents the first in a series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. Supermarkets have more power than is good for you? Fruit grower Mark Giles and butcher Graham Hurley slug it out with Tony Comber from Safeways and economist Sean Rickard in front of an audience at Leominster, Worcestershire. See Pick of the Day.

### 8.45 Keyword. Matt Frei highlights a word from a foreign language which captures the essence of that country and its culture. 3: 'Losing Face'. For the Chinese, feeling embarrassed is a gravely serious business.

### 9.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahl's. 3: 'A Dip in the Pool' by Roald Dahl, read by Geoffrey Palmer. On a rough sea trip, Mr Dahl thinks that he can predict how far the ship will travel in 24 hours. But if the weather calms, he will be in danger of losing his money.

### 11.00 Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery. Downbeat comedy with Sean Lock, winner of the Time Out Comedy Award, who plays a character holed up in a flat from where he eavesdrops on his neighbours.

### 11.15 MacLean: Memorex Years.

### 11.30 At the Store.

### 12.00 News.

### 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts.

### 12.45 Shipping Forecast.

### 1.00 As World Service.

### 5.30 World News.

### 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

### 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

### 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

### 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

### RADIO 4 LW (198kHz LW)

### 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

### 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

### RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)

### 6.00 Proops's Hoops. (R)

### 6.30 Breakfast.

### 9.00 Brian Hayes.

### 12.00 The Midday News.

### 1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

### 4.00 Drive.

### 7.00 News Extra.

### 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night.

### Featuring commentary from the Scottish Premier League, as Dundee United take on Rangers.

### 9.30 Muscular Pose. With Nick Coleman. Prose about the non-players who make sport possible: referees, groundsmen, trainers and mechanics. (R)

### 10.00 The End of the Year Show.

### In this lively and entertaining look back at the year, Bruce Hyman talks to a group of five well known figures who have been in the public eye for various reasons during 1998.

### 12.00 Interesting, Very Interesting.

### 1.00 Up All Night.

### 4.00 Extra Time. (R)

### 5.00 - 6.00 Spotlight 98. (R)

### CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM)

### 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.

### 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

### VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 197-220MHz MW 1058MHz FM)

### 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest.

### 11.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

### WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

### 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus.

### 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Brains. 4.00 - 7.00 World Today.

### TALK RADIO (198kHz LW)

### 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Mean.

### 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Loraine Keay. 2.00 Nancy Roberts.

### 4.00 Peter Deely. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale.

### 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPELMAN

TOP ORGANISER Adam Raoof's Oxford International Chess festival finished a week ago today after exciting last round battles in all events.

In the Grandmaster A. Julian Hodgson had started the day leading by a whole point. Hodgson, however, tripped the Sicilian Dragon against the dangerous young Israeli, Emil Sutovsky, and was shot down in flames. This gave Sweden Jonny Hector the chance to catch up. Hector took the opportunity, defeating the off-form Peter Wells to tie on 6/9. But the prize fund was to be apportioned according to draw; and this favoured Hodgson who received the first prize of £4,000, while Hector made just £3,000.

The two were followed by John Nunn, who made 5.5; McDonald and Gausel, 5; Sutovsky and Turner 4.5; Rowson and Pedersen, 3; and Wells, just 2.5.

In the Grandmaster B event, Barsov and Colin Crouch were first equal on 6/9, ahead of Tim Wall - who made an IM norm, Summerscale and Ansell on 5.5.

The greatest drama of all, though, from a classical point of view was surely the sibling battle between Harriet Hunt and her younger brother Adam in the International Master event. A point clear after five rounds, Harriet was ground down in the sixth by the extremely determined Adam. She recovered though, to win outright with 7/9 and make an IM norm. Adam Hunt came second on 6.5.

## BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

WEST DID not think far enough ahead in the defence on this particular deal. There were, in fact, two possible ways of trying for a ruff, but both equally likely, but one of them gave a far better chance of defeating the contract.

South opened 1NT (15-17 points) and showed his Hearts in response to a Stayman enquiry. North's raise to game was passed out and West led his singleton club against Four Hearts.

After winning in hand, declarer played the ace and another trump which West won with his king. His problem now was, how to put his partner in for the club ruff?

East was marked with some high cards - he might even have both ♠A and ♠A, in which case it would not have mattered what West led with. But if East held only one ace, the wrong return would allow declarer to win and draw West's last trump.

There seemed to be no indication (yes, some modernists would agree that the order in which East has played his trumps should have suit preference connotations, but East-West were not of this particular school...), and in practice West chose a diamond. Now South had ten tricks.

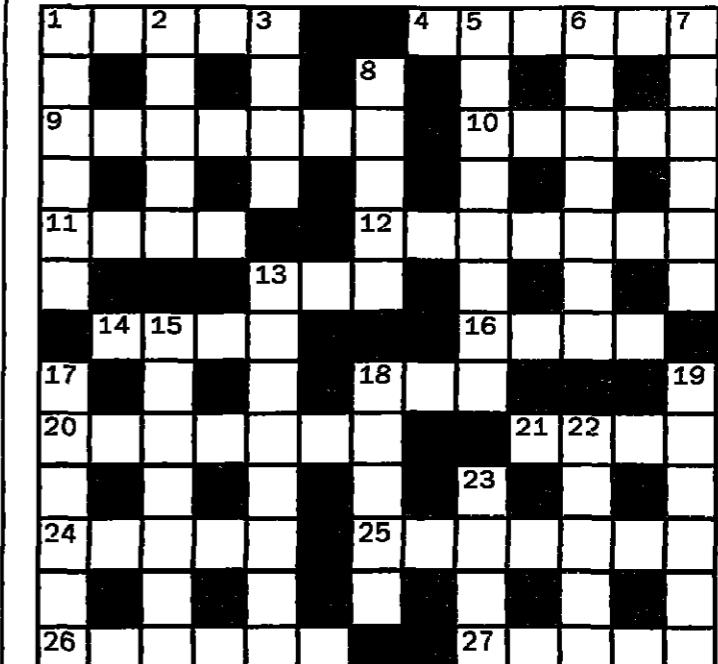
West had missed an important

point. If indeed his partner held ♠A but no ♠A, a club ruff might well not defeat the contract - unless East held both of the top diamonds, there would be no more tricks to come. But on the other hand, if East held ♠A but not ♠A, there would be some excellent prospects of eventually coming to a diamond trick at some later point, after taking the club ruff.

As you can see from the above, that is just how it would have worked out.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3806 Wednesday 30 December



### ACROSS

1 Wait in line (5)

2 Amuse (6)

9 Aircraft flap (7)

10 Fine fabric (5)

11 Carry (4)

12 Type of rifle (7)

13 Corpulent (3)

14 Indian prince (4)

15 Frenzied indulgence (4)

18 Border (3)

20 In proportion (3,4)

21 Rise rapidly (4)

24 Legal defence (5)

25 Inactivity (7)

26 Disinter (5)

27 Russian country house (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 7 Missed; 8 Rusted (Misrued); 10 Raiment; 11 Salvo, 12 Crib; 13 Space; 17 Molar; 18 Esam; 19 Learn; 20 Connive, 24 Camera; 25 Tom-cat; 26 Embrace; 28 Aspirin; 3 Fever; 4 Tussock; 5 Still; 6 Idiom; 9 Stop-watch; 14 Jomerv; 15 Extinct; 16 Amnesty; 17 Slack; 20 Palms; 21 Snoop.

## &lt;h2



## WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1  
BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 30 December 1998

### PETER CONCHIE

TELEVISION REVIEW



VIEWERS CAN usually expect a certain level of intellectual rigour from a documentary on Channel 4 and, in that regard, Stonehenge's Secrets of the Stones was continuing to fulfil the final credits' claim that it was a "Yorkshire production for the Discovery Channel."

A generation ago, Yorkshire produced Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World and it was clear from Stonehenge's that it was a "Yorkshire production" with production values and exotic pace-and-science claims that what had here was a direct descendant. The faintest hint of echo on the Granada James view was aligned with some new-age sound effects consisting of wind chimes, multi-headed cymbals and swirling synapses: chords.

The film's main advocate was a physicist by the name of Terence Meaden, a man with a simplistic, sex-obsessed analysis of the stone circles of the south-west of England.

There is no physical evidence to back up his theory that an Earth-goddess cult existed in ancient Britain, but, in spite of this, his views formed the basis of a film which was a muddled monument to blind assent. At Stonehenge, a phallic shadow is cast from the "feet" stone, this penetrates to the centre of the monument where its tip touches the allegedly sacred "Goddess" stone.

"The first arch is wider than all the others, this is the vulva of the others," he is the vulva argued uncompromisingly. "Inside

"Gods" like his subject, Lawson couldn't help himself, he argued, "the first pair of stones which are..." there followed a suddenly pregnant pause while Meaden glanced into the lens for reassurance.

"...recognizable as the cervix..." stones, and inside this we have the uterus! One could sympathise with the poor camerman as a horrible mismatch emerged between what Meaden was talking

about and what the cameraman thought he was meant to be pointing his camera at. The cameraman was a vague sweep across the ruble as he half-heartedly cast about for anything vaguely weird. "The shot lingered in comic confusion on a pile of old stones, I didn't see a uterus among them, but, then again, I suppose I wasn't looking for one."

He was a man wandering deliriously in an empirical

trouble in equal measure.

dear, and the wrap-up line was typical of the film's combusted approach. It vacillated between the need for a single truth and a rag-bag collection of subjective interpretations. "A sacred place that is, when it emerged from the Stonehenge's regional production for the Discovery Channel."

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which are..." there followed a

suddenly pregnant pause

while Meaden glanced into

the lens for reassurance.

"...recognizable as the cervix..."

stones, and inside this we have the uterus! One could

sympathise with the poor

camerman as a horrible

mismatch emerged between

the last election. "While Clinton

had been accused of most

peccadilloes," Lawson drawled, "the is

probably the only US president

not to be accused of racism."

After all, he is evidently as easy in an

abstinent church as he was in

hard-hitting congregation in the

front of his hand still

in comic confusion on a pile

of old stones, I didn't see a

uterus among them, but, then

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## BBC2

## ITV Carlton

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

THE INDEPENDENT 30 December 1998

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